

THE TIMES

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TODAY

10P

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National interest comes first

Major tells sceptics: I will not be bullied

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR warned Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the European single currency, telling his critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries "cheating" on the entry conditions. Fleeing the field when the game was being played would be a dereliction

that Mr Major would use the interview to spell out his personal doubts about Britain entering with the first wave, but he disappointed them. He did say, however, that Britain had no intention of going into a "flawed economic and monetary union".

On Friday, Sir John Gort with-drew support from the Government over a dispute about a casualty unit in his local hospital and ended the Government's majority for the first time in 17 years.

Mr Major said that in present circumstances any one backbencher could have his "moment of fame" if he wanted to be difficult on any particular issue. "Well the Government cannot be held to ransom like this and we are not going to be held to ransom like this. If they do not support us, then we may have a general election, but that is in the nature of politics. But I am not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue."

He added: "We have set out our policy and we are going to get it through. If we do not get it through, then we do not get it through. But I am not going to have the Government bending and weaving from the things it believes are right on the basis that somebody is trying a bit of pork barrel politics or a bit of arm-twisting of the Government because it has a small majority."

Any MPs who had that in mind would not get much warmth from activists up and down the country if they imperilled the Government's achievements because they had a "bee in their bonnet".

His words brought a speedy blast from one of the MPs who have been

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MPs call for more European progress

A substantial group of Conservative grandees and MPs join with other pro-Europeans today to warn John Major against trying to block progress in this week's Dublin summit on the future development of Europe. They call on Mr Major, and Tony Blair to bypass the Eurosceptics in future by trying to secure all-party support in the Commons for any deal they intend to make. **Page 2**

of responsibility. He said: "I am saying to my party: 'Trust me'." Despite what was seen by most MPs as a forceful performance in a television interview that he had requested in order to calm the renewed outbreak of civil war in his party, it was clear last night that Mr Major had failed to quell the dissatisfaction of Conservative MPs who want him to rule out a single currency for the next Parliament.

But in a fierce response to opponents after the wiping out of his parliamentary majority, Mr Major made plain that he would not budge. He was staying in the talks to defend the national interest and if he had to choose between the party interest and the national interest, he would choose the latter. Asked whether he would do so even if it cost him the election, he replied: "I shall choose the national interest."

In an uncompromising 50-minute appearance on BBC television's *On the Record* programme, Mr Major, speaking from his Huntingdon home, surprised many senior MPs both by his decision to give no ground over Europe and by the ferocity of his reaction to the activities of MPs who might use the Government's perilous position to make special demands on ministers. Some sceptic ministers had hoped

them students, amateurs and other unknowns, submitted postcard-sized original works for an exhibition; but scattered about the walls, were a handful of works by the famous.

All were unsigned, and all on sale at £30. Peri, who submitted an entry herself, took only five minutes to decide that she would buy picture No 772. It was a tiny streetscape, but its style looked familiar.

Peri had correctly spotted the Auerbach style. The Berlin-born painter, himself a former RCA student in the 1950s who works from a north London studio, is well known for his cityscapes, and they



Lucien Lawrence, the son of the murdered headmaster, with the Duchess of Kent yesterday, unveiling a plaque to his father. **Page 4**

Britain sets out on a £23 billion shopping spree

BRITAIN yesterday embarked on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade. A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink, £700 million more than in 1995.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year.

John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people had visited the centre. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived soon after 7am - four hours before opening. **Page 6**

Kabul's starving sell human bones

Human bones are being sold in Kabul, Afghanistan's ruined capital, as children rob graves to get money for their starving families (writes Anthony Loyd). The bones are sent to Pakistan to make soap and chicken feed. An average man would fetch about 7,000 afghanis - almost 50 US cents. **Page 11**

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The Times on the Internet <http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Student spots golden secret of card 772

By ALAN HAMILTON

IT WAS perhaps not quite in the league of finding a Leonardo at a car boot sale, but art student Peri Kemal-Orek was more than happy when she discovered yesterday that she had acquired a Frank Auerbach original painting for a mere £30. Especially when a similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount.

Peri, 27, a Turkish Cypriot living in London, turned up at the Royal College of Art to find that she had won the jackpot in an ingenious artistic lottery run by the college. Sixteen hundred artists, most of

are much prized: his postcard-sized entry for a similar blind auction last year was valued at £10,000.

Peri, who already has a fine art degree from Birmingham University and hopes to win a place at the RCA next year, said: "I was first in the queue when they opened the bidding: I looked at No 772, saw nothing else like it in the show, and decided it must be a genuine Auerbach."

But what would she do with her newly-acquired bargain? "I would love to keep it, but I am a poor student and I may have to sell it." All 1,600 works were sold, raising £50,000 for college funds.



Kemal-Orek spotted the Auerbach cityscape

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Chilly outlook fails to discomfit conservatory party

It was a key interview at a key moment, surprising us with its steadiness. Years of studying the man should have taught us — so why does it always come as a shock? — that just when you expect John Major to sidle out from his bunker with his hands up, he comes out fighting?

Britons switched on their television sets for Sunday lunchtime's *On The Record* expecting to see a peeved and

defensive Prime Minister floundering in the face of a sadistic John Humphrys. Instead, Mr Major spoke as though disposing of a little local difficulty got up by the media, before slipping into Great Stukeley for a pint before lunch.

John and Norma's Huntingdon conservatory became an eye of calm at the centre of a storm of Cabinet rumour. Dr Brian Mawhinney's scooters on Kenneth Clarke's lawn?

Why, Mr Humphrys. "I don't know whether anybody in Britain has scooters these days." An imminent shift in the Cabinet's line on a single currency? "What a load of old nonsense!" Major was ice-cool and halfway convincing, his performance laced with a self-belief which, though quiet, was almost fierce.

Future students of current affairs will rerun the video of that interview searching for harbingers of the Tory recovery — or Tory collapse — which will now follow. They will say the talk was watched by millions. "Watched" — yes. But we listened only fitfully to the debate. What gripped the nation was the inside peek at the Major's conservatory. Was the cane furniture Ikea? Was



that a fern trained from the pot on the windowsill? "If the French are cooking the books..." insisted Humphrys — but what we wanted was a closer shot of the porcelain cat. "What a lovely weeping willow outside," trilled tens of thousands, as Mr Humphrys, white-knuckled with conviction, pressed his point about economic convergence.

"And the pond? It was so much bigger than we'd expected. The nation scanned the wavelets for ducks, but not a duck did we see. "The French are fudging," said Humphrys — and, fleetingly, we caught the reflection of a figure in the window behind Major's head. Was it Norma? Or Elizabeth? Or James? Do the Majors have a home help? Would it be

Norma herself who threaded that climber so cleverly into a neat loop? Would Mr Humphrys get a chocolate digestive biscuit after the interview?

To such questions and many like them came no answers, as Major and Humphrys dined on about EMU, convergence and enlargement. By the end, even the most news-hungry journalist found his attention wandering to the impressive double glazing. For Mr Major, the interview was therefore a success. Many years ago, while being presented by Margaret Thatcher with an RSPCA bravery award for rescuing a dog, I saw the dog seized by her leg. If she noticed, you would never have thought it. Her gracious expression in the *Sunday Express* photograph betrayed no hint of the indignity. Tory leaders learn to hide embarrassment where lesser mortals panic.

Europhiles urge Major to look beyond his party

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A SUBSTANTIAL group of Conservative grandees and MPs join with other pro-Europeans today to warn John Major against trying to block progress in this week's Dublin summit on the future development of Europe.

In a radical policy plan, they call on Mr Major — and Tony Blair should he become prime minister next year — to bypass the Euro-sceptics in future by trying to secure all-party support in the Commons for any deal they intend to make.

Deeply suspicious that the Prime Minister is intending to take a hard line in Dublin because of his growing internal problems, Euro-enthusiasts from all parties have united to tell him that he is in danger of boxing himself into an impossible position that will damage Britain. They call for "confidence and daring" from ministers in their approach to Europe and opposition to the sceptics.

In an advertisement in *The Times*, the cross-party coalition suggested that the Government, or any future Labour government, should no longer seek to advance European developments by relying on their own supporters. Instead it should negotiate in the current inter-governmental conference — which reaches a critical stage in Dublin this week — with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the Commons for any deal, rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party, as happened during the ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

It tells Mr Major that he should not regard the veto as a "credible or cost-free option" and, among its specific policy proposals that will anger the sceptics, it calls on the Government to resist any temptation to attack or dismember the European Court of Justice. The declaration from the pro-

Europeans, organised by the European Movement, is regarded as their most important statement since Maastricht. It confirms their determination to take a much more aggressive stance in their battle with the Euro-sceptics, which was in evidence last week in their vocal support for the stand being taken by Kenneth Clarke on the single currency.

Some 80 national figures and 500 other supporters have put their name to the advert which attacks the present British attitude at the IGC as too cautious and dogmatic. They include Lord Howe of Aveon, the former Chancellor, and Foreign Secretary, Lord Gilmour, the former Tory Cabinet minister, Paddy Ashdown, Lord Richard, Labour's leader in the Lords, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Labour Chancellor and SDP leader, Roy Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, a number of former senior diplomats and five former European commissioners, including the Conservative Lord Tugendhat.

Sixteen Tory MPs have signed, including Edwina Currie, James Coughman, Tim Eggar, who resigned in

June as Energy Minister, Sir Anthony Grant, Sir Jim Lester, Peter Temple-Morris and Sir David Knox. Lord Howe said last night that it was "imperative" for the Government to work constructively with its European partners at the IGC and elsewhere.

"That is the best way to advance British power and influence in the world. There is a large majority in Parliament and the country for such an approach. The Government should have the courage and confidence to adopt it," Lord Howe said.

"Britain's position in Europe has always been built on wide cross-party support in both Houses. It is important that the Prime Minister has that in mind. It represents a much more secure path to the future than having to rely on majorities composed from one party."

The advert says the Government seems immobilised by fears of what Douglas Hurd once called "shadows on the wall". It says: "We are in danger of painting ourselves into a corner and achieving very little, for Britain and for Europe as a whole."

It warns that Mr Major's advocacy of a multi-speed Europe, which has now led to Franco-German proposals for the establishment of an inner core "from which we would in effect exclude ourselves, places Britain's participation at the heart of Europe under serious threat."

It calls on the Government to work to ensure an agreed outcome at the IGC. "The Government risks boxing itself into a non-negotiable position in the current IGC. The UK can only secure its negotiating objectives by approaching this discussion with room for manoeuvre." It says that under no circumstances in future should the Government rule out participation in a single currency.



Howe recommends "more secure path"



My lips are sealed: John Major preparing for his BBC interview yesterday

'National interest comes first'

Continued from page 1 considering whether to resign the party whip over Europe. Terry Dicks accused the Prime Minister of ridiculing and insulting him. He was "ashamed and disgusted" by the Prime Minister's attitude towards him. Mr Dicks said: "I have never been so insulted ever than to be told that I was looking for my one moment of fame. I am seething. Right now I am in two minds whether to tell him to stuff his Government and his party. That is my immediate reaction, but it is not a wise one." Mr Major asked whether

any of his critics seriously would prefer Tony Blair going off to Amsterdam in June to negotiate on behalf of Britain. Explaining why he so passionately defends the wait-and-see stance, he said: "If when the time comes they fudge the criteria, then I need to be at the table to argue against that. I need to be at the table to vote against those countries going into a single currency. What authority would I have at that table if I decided at this stage, when my critics say other people are cheating, if I said I am not going to be there to try and prevent them cheating?"

John Redwood led the procession of Euro-sceptics who voiced their unhappiness. He said that nobody denied Mr Major's claim that Britain should remain in the talks, but the way to achieve influence was to have a British opinion. "Is it not time for Britain to say if there is so much fudge coming out of Brussels the currency scheme will not work?"

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Leaders meet amid gloom over Ulster

By Nicholas Watt and Audrey Magee

JOHN MAJOR will hold talks with the Irish Prime Minister today amid gloom at the prospect of advancing the stalled peace process before the general election.

With Dublin seeking a compromise formula to put Sinn Fein on a fast track into all-party talks in the event of a second ceasefire, the Prime Minister said that he would not be taken in by a second "phony" cessation of violence.

Mr Major, who will hold the talks in Downing Street with John Bruton, the Taoiseach, admitted that he was not optimistic about the prospects for another ceasefire. "What I do not wish to see would be a phoney ceasefire — a ceasefire simply to score public relations victories and to try and have Sinn Fein parachuted into the talks without actually giving up the violence which has sustained the IRA for so long," he said.

"In retrospect we had a phoney ceasefire. We thought we had a real one and what did we subsequently find out? Within days of declaring the ceasefire Sinn Fein/IRA were filling garages in London with Semtex and explosives. That's not a genuine ceasefire."

Mr Major refused to give a timescale for when the Government would decide a ceasefire was sustainable and push for Sinn Fein to enter inclusive talks on the future of Northern Ireland. Asked how long he would wait before accepting that a ceasefire was going to be sustainable, Mr Major said on the BBC's *On the Record*: "I will not wait too long to see if it is to be sustainable — I am not going to give you a time. It depends on actions not of Brussels the passage of a few days or weeks."

But he warned: "I'm not going down a fake path again. We've done that and we were betrayed by Sinn Fein/IRA, who said one thing when they were doing another. This time it needs to be real." The Prime

Minister said that whether or not the ceasefire was judged to be sustainable would depend on intelligence reports of terrorist activity rather than the passage of time.

Mr Major's caution about the prospect for a lasting ceasefire found support from a former MI5 mole within the IRA. Sean O'Callaghan, who has been freed from jail after serving eight years of two life sentences for murder, said the IRA would declare a tactical ceasefire before the general election but would not abandon its use of violence until it had achieved a united Ireland.

O'Callaghan, who is in hiding since being released from Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, is at risk from revenge by the IRA. As an informer for the Garda and MI5 in the 1980s, he was disrupted many of the IRA's terrorist operations.

O'Callaghan vowed yesterday to campaign against his "evil" former comrades who were duping the world into believing they were committed to the peace process. Speaking from his hideout, he told *The Sunday Times*: "Will there be a ceasefire? Yes. Will it be genuine? Not a chance. Republicans will murder many more people before this is all over."

He predicted that the IRA would renew its ceasefire before the general election in an attempt to lure the SDLP into an electoral pact with Sinn Fein. "If that happens, violence on a scale never seen before will be unavoidable. It is that serious. There is no possibility that the IRA will permanently eschew violence, short of victory."

A 16-year-old boy in West Belfast had his legs broken in an IRA punishment beating. Two men took the boy to an alleyway in the New Barnsley Park area on Saturday night. They then tied him up with tape, hung him upside down from railings and beat him, breaking his legs.

How Humphrys became an appetiser for Sunday lunch

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN HUMPHRYS was winding up the *Today* programme at 8.40am on Friday when the telephone rang in the BBC studio. Downing Street came on the line just as the programme switched to *Yesterday* in Parliament and John Major's humiliation at the dispatch box at the hands of Tony Blair.

Jonathan Haslam, the Prime Minister's press secretary, was on the line. He wanted to know if the long-standing invitation for Mr Major to appear on the programme *On the Record* still stood. He knew the answer before Mr Humphrys said yes. But there was one

stipulation from Mr Haslam. The interview had to be at Huntingdon because Mr Major was hosting a Sunday family lunch with Norma for their son James, 21, his girlfriend Elaine Jordache, the Major's daughter Elizabeth, 25, and her boyfriend Luke Salter, 24. It was to be the first in-depth television interview with the Prime Minister to be conducted at his own home.

Downing Street had been galvanised into action after a brief survey of Friday morning's headlines. They were the worst since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. Mr Major, who was in Huntingdon, told Mr Haslam on the telephone: "Get me on the television." It had been a torrid 24 hours. After Mr

Major's mauling at the dispatch box, more difficulties were to come.

John Ward, his Parliamentary Private Secretary, came to see him the same night with a written report of the meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee. It was depressing reading for Mr Major. Even traditionally loyalist troops were reaching the stage of mutiny. An opinion poll showing the Tories 37 per cent adrift irritated Mr Major even further as it conflicted sharply with the party's own private findings.

Mr Major had a brief discussion in Downing Street with Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. He had already broached the idea of a fightback with Dr Brian Ma-

whinney, the party chairman. The Prime Minister went to Huntingdon late on Thursday. When a summary of the newspaper cuttings were delivered to his home, The Finings, his mind was made up. The media counter-offensive swung into action.

Some mischievous aides of Mr Major thought that the timing was ideal. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had gone away for a long weekend with his wife Gillian. The break was at her behest. It meant he was out of reach of the press.

Invitations were in Mr Haslam's desk from big-name interviewers, including Sir David Frost. But Humphrys, the anchorman of the *Today* programme, was the Prime

Minister's choice. One week earlier Humphrys, one of the toughest political interviewers, had spent a convivial evening with Mr Major at the Australian High Commission.

It was a fundraising evening for the Newspaper Press Fund, which helps journalists who have fallen on hard times. Humphrys is the chairman. Mr Major, in a light-hearted speech, poked fun at his BBC sparring partner. Humphrys responded in kind. But the last laugh was on Mr Major.

When the dinner ended, Mr Major and Humphrys, who were still locked in conversation, asked for a beer. Humphrys had to admit that, surprisingly for a journalist

gathering, they had run out. Neal Blewett, the Australian High Commissioner, rescued the situation. He disappeared into the cellar and returned with reinforcements. Before they parted that night Humphrys reiterated his wish for Mr Major to come back on to his show.

Mr Major agreed to ponder the request. While some ministers object to Humphrys's aggressive style, the Prime Minister is said to relish the fight. It was significant that last year, having triggered the leadership contest, he chose Humphrys's programme to argue his case the following Sunday.

The BBC arrived in Huntingdon at 8am. Humphrys showed up one

hour later at a breakfast with his production team at the Bridge Hotel, a short drive from the Prime Minister's home. A similar breakfast was going on at the same time in Mr Major's house with Mr Haslam and Howell James, his political secretary, to rehearse the interview for the 50-minute interview.

After the interview, recorded an hour before it went out, Mr Major introduced the presenter to his wife and family, who were gathered in the large kitchen, and showed him the new goldfish pond. Humphrys said afterwards: "He was in fighting form. Grown up politicians like a tough interview."

... shot dead ... in gang war ...

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Fiance rage is held
 Royal divorce for Prince's...

Fiancée of 'road rage' knife victim is held by police

By DANIEL MCGROK

THE fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey was under police guard in hospital last night after she was arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road a week ago.

Detectives are waiting for doctors to decide whether Tracie Andrews, 27, is well enough to be questioned about the murder, which she told a televised press conference came after a violent confrontation with another driver.

Miss Andrews had been in hospital after taking an apparent drugs overdose and returned to the flat she shared with Mr Harvey in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, on Saturday where police were waiting for her. She was taken to Redditch police station but after being examined by two doctors they decided she should be readmitted to hospital, describing her as being in "a dangerously emotional state".

Her mother and stepfather, Irene and Alan Carter, have been allowed to visit her and are looking after five-year-old Carla, Miss Andrews's daughter from a previous relationship. As the police vigil

continued at an undisclosed hospital forensic teams searched for the murder weapon alongside Coopers Hill, Alvechurch, where 25-year-old Mr Harvey was found dead with 16 stab wounds. Thirty officers questioned motorists at eight road blocks on the route taken by the couple.

West Mercia police are also questioning friends and relatives of the couple about their relationship which has been described as "stormy and tempestuous". Although the couple planned to marry in summer a close friend of Mr Harvey said: "Tracie was always throwing him out then taking him back. Their engagement has been off three times."

The detective leading the inquiry, Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, would last night say only: "We wish to confirm that a 27-year-old woman was arrested and brought to the police station but we have not and will not confirm the identity of that person."

"It's still not clear when we will be in a position to interview her. We have not started to question her yet."

Miss Andrews made an emotional appeal to find the driver and passenger of a Ford Sierra car which she said chased them for three miles along country lanes after they left a pub.

The former model and barmaid, who appeared with stitches in a cut above a black eye, told how she had been hit in the face by the passenger of the car pursuing them. She described him as an overweight man "with stary eyes" whom she had seen repeatedly stab her fiancé.

Relatives of the couple were yesterday left confused by this latest twist in the murder hunt. Mr Harvey's father Ray said: "This is the vilest murder possible... I just want to see justice done and what I want to do is look into the eyes of my son's killer."

Detectives have told him only that they have taken a woman into custody. "There has been a lot of speculation, but we are trying to keep an open mind until something official is said," Mr Harvey added. He had sat beside Miss Andrews as she made her televised appeal.

Since the stabbing on December 1 police have been appealing for witnesses who either saw the car chase or the argument which allegedly ended with Mr Harvey's death. A senior police source said yesterday: "We've had a good public response but there were no sightings of the incident as allegedly described."

Detectives also began to examine the timetable that Miss Andrews had given them in which she claimed that the couple left a pub at 10.30pm to drive three miles to their home but the police were not called until an hour later.

Miss Andrews was herself covered in blood and told police she had cradled her dying fiancé in her arms.



Stabbing victim Lee Harvey with his fiancée Tracie Andrews, who is now under police guard in hospital



The KLM Fokker on the edge of a foam-drenched runway at Heathrow yesterday after its port undercarriage collapsed on landing

Crash-landing delays hundreds of flights

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of flights to and from Heathrow Airport were delayed yesterday after the undercarriage of a twin-engine plane carrying 41 passengers and four crew collapsed on landing, blocking a runway.

More than 150 flights were delayed by at least two hours, others were cancelled and thousands of passengers were held at airports throughout Europe waiting for clearance to fly to Heathrow. Accident investigators carried out an inspection of the undercarriage of the KLM City Hopper Fokker 50 in an attempt to pinpoint what caused it to collapse on landing.

The captain of flight KL 483, from Rotterdam, had told air traffic controllers that he was "not getting three green lights", indicating that the three legs of the undercarriage had locked down safely and that the port leg was not deploying fully.

As firefighters sprayed foam onto the runway, the propeller-driven aircraft made a perfect approach from the west and touched down, apparently without incident. But as the aircraft braked some 200 metres down the

runway the port undercarriage buckled, tipping the aircraft on to its port wing while it was moving at about 60mph.

As soon as the plane had come to a halt the passengers were evacuated, with only one suffering a bruised toe as he stumbled from the escape chute. The aircraft, built in 1991 and with no previous history of undercarriage trouble, was left on the edge of the runway, which had to be closed to both landing and departing aircraft.

The entire airport closed for a time as controllers sorted the arriving aircraft and held those intending to

take off. Both arriving and departing aircraft then had to use another runway, seriously reducing the airport's overall capacity. British Airways alone had to delay 30 flights by at least two hours and cancelled three services to Manchester.

Sunday afternoon is one of the busiest times of the week for flights from and to continental Europe and dozens of pilots were ordered to wait where they were rather than attempt to come to Heathrow. The blocked runway was expected to be cleared by late last night, and most flights should be back to normal by today.

Drug baron shot dead in gang war

By AUDREY MAGER IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG baron nicknamed The Psycho was shot dead early yesterday in Dublin's latest gangland killing. Peter Joseph Judge, 41, was shot twice in the head as he sat in his car outside a pub.

Judge was one of four men controlling the Dublin drug scene and was himself suspected of murdering at least two men. He is the fifteenth person to have been murdered in contract-style killings in the Irish capital since 1994 when the IRA murdered Martin Cahill, the criminal godfather nicknamed The General.

After Cahill's death, the Dublin criminal underworld splintered into various gangs, one of which was responsible for the murder last June of the journalist Veronica Guerin. Judge, who dealt in heroin, cannabis, amphetamines and Ecstasy, is not believed to have been involved in her death.

Judge had been the Royal Oak pub in Finglas, north Dublin, on Saturday with a girlfriend. The two left at 12.15am and went to their Ford Fiesta in the car park. Mr Judge had barely started the engine when a masked man on a motorcycle fired through the window. He died instantly.

Match of the Day: Lynam and Albion

By A STAFF REPORTER

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion, the troubled football club, has received an offer of help from Desmond Lynam. The BBC sports presenter and a long-time Brighton fan telephoned BBC Radio 5 Live's Six-O-Six, presented by David Mellor, on Saturday, offering to act as mediator.

The problems at Brighton centre on the sale of the Goldstone Ground, which may leave the club homeless in June. Supporters' fears for the club's future have led to protest marches, boycotts and pitch invasions. The team occupies 92nd place (out of 92) in the Football League, went out of the FA Cup to a non-

league team, and is without a manager.

Lynam offered to mediate between Bill Archer, the club chairman, and a consortium that hopes to take over the club. "We would get them in a room and kick their backsides for a couple of hours and see if we could get something sorted out because things are looking so black that the club is going to die," Lynam told listeners.

"I called in absolute frustration, really," Lynam said yesterday. "I keep getting letters and calls from people who know my love for the club and I'm desperate to do something. I'm as mortified as they are - I've been racking my brains for two years."

Lynam was contacted shortly after the broadcast by David Davies of the Football Association, and invited to join discussions sponsored by the Football Association between all parties via the arbitration arm of the Confederation of British Industry.

Dick Knight, the leader of the consortium, speaking on yesterday's Gary Lineker programme on Radio 5, and John Baine of the Brighton Independent Supporters Association, welcomed Lynam's intervention but called for the FA to take stronger action.



Lynam: called show in absolute frustration

Royal divorcees together for Prince's carol service

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince and Princess of Wales were seen together for the first time yesterday since their divorce in August. They joined Prince William in Eton College Chapel for the annual Christmas festival of lessons and carols. The Prince, who is 14 and in his second year at the school, read one of the lessons.

They arrived separately at their elder son's school house and were welcomed inside by Andrew Gallely, the housemaster. The Princess drove herself to the school in a black BMW. The Prince arrived five minutes later as a passenger in a Vauxhall Cavalier. The couple then entered the chapel by a side door to avoid waiting photographers.

Prince William read "The Prophet Micah" foretells the glory of Bethlehem. Micah;

v. 24. Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, said: "It was an excellent service. Prince William read the lesson very well."

The couple's appearance together came on the day of an unconfirmed report that the Queen, in a move of reconciliation, would invite the Princess to her annual family lunch at Buckingham Palace on December 18, shortly before she departs for Christmas at Sandringham. The Palace would not confirm the invitation.

Last Christmas was the first since the separation that the Princess did not take up the Queen's invitation to spend part of the holiday season at Sandringham. It was a difficult period for the Princess, coming days after the Queen had written urging the couple

to proceed with their divorce. The Princess is thought unlikely to attend the Sandringham gathering this year. All eyes instead will be on whether the guest list numbers Sophie Rhys-Jones, who has been the girlfriend of Prince Edward for three years but who still appears to be in want of a proposal of marriage.

Miss Rhys-Jones is rumoured to be tired of waiting. Whether she appears this year will be an important clue to Prince Edward's future marital status.

Diana, Princess of Wales, meanwhile, will be the centre of attention today when she delivers a speech in London to the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations. Later she will fly to New York for a charity function.

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Son unveils memorial to head who never let his pupils down

By JOANNA BALE

THE nine-year-old son of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence unveiled a plaque to his father yesterday on the first anniversary of his death.

In a moving ceremony outside the gates of St George's Roman Catholic School, Maida Vale, northwest London, Lucien Lawrence stepped onto a dais and smiled nervously as he pronounced: "Now I shall unveil the memorial to my daddy."

Helped by the Duchess of Kent, he then pulled a cord to reveal the plaque, which said his father "gave his life in defence of a pupil". Cardinal Basil Hume and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, were among those who stood and applauded. Pupils attending the ceremony were visibly upset by the rekindled memories of Mr Lawrence's stabbing, many having seen their wounded headmaster staggering back through the school gates before collapsing and later dying in hospital.

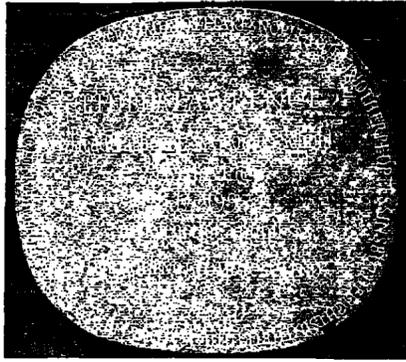
Kamil Zulawski, 11, said: "He was a good man and good for the school. Now we must do our best to live up to his example."

In a service in the school's main hall, Cardinal Hume,

Archbishop of Westminster, told 200 pupils, teachers, friends and politicians that Mr Lawrence was "an example to be followed as well as a memory to be cherished". He added: "Here was a man who got things right. He seemed to incorporate in a person all the values that our society needs and for which Frances, his beloved wife, has so rightly called."

Mrs Lawrence, who has initiated a national debate on morality since her husband's death, said that the memorial encapsulated "the quietude, the strength and the abiding principle of his life". She added that it was "above all for his pupils". "In the early morning or at dusk as they walk through the school gates, perhaps they will pause for a while and consider for a while the words on the plaque."

"They will visualise how he would stand at the gates and send them on their way cheerfully and remember that he cared deeply for each one of them. That he respected and delighted in each of his pupils' individuality and considered each one of them to be capable of greatness. They will remember that when times were



"... love takes no pleasure in other people's sins ..."

though he gave them hope and that he never let them down."

Referring to an inscription on the plaque from Corinthians, she added: "One year ago today, Philip died. What he was will live on and just as truth is eternal, so the words on the memorial to him form an unbroken circle."

Mr Lawrence was stabbed by a 15-year-old boy as he tried to help one of his pupils who was being attacked by a gang of teenagers outside the school

gates. Earlier this year, an Old Bailey judge ordered Learco Chindamo to be detained indefinitely for the murder.

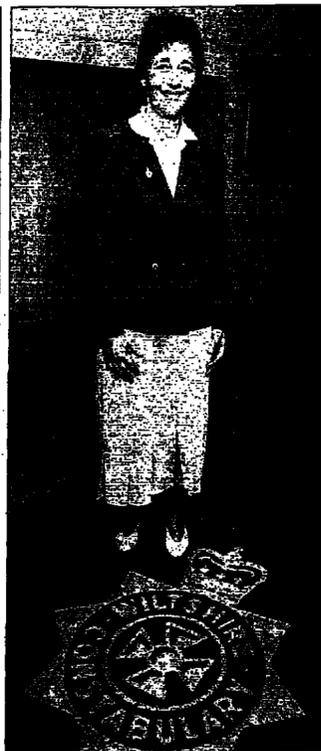
Mr Lawrence's three daughters, Maroushka, who read a psalm, Myfanwy and Unity, and his mother were at the service. Mrs Lawrence thanked the thousands of people who had given money for the memorial. "It is created from your generosity and from your prayers and gentle words. Without these,

the children and I would have been lost," she said.

Mr Howard paid tribute to Mrs Lawrence for attempting to make something "meaningful and positive" from his death. "The bravery Frances has shown has inspired each of us who have seen it. More than that, it has touched the conscience of the nation. It was her choice that love and reason would triumph over hate and irrationality. She has decided that Philip's death can be an agency of change and healing in society. She has offered us her ideas for healing our society and she has given us a vision of regeneration."

Mr Howard recently launched an award scheme, as a result of Mrs Lawrence's initiative, to promote good citizenship among young people. Although security was tight around the school, there was no obvious police guard for Lucien, who was the target of a failed abduction attempt by bogus social workers who called at his home in Ealing, west London, last week.

The Duchess of Kent, who is suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, spoke of her friendship with the family since Mr Lawrence's death and of how he was a "shining example" to the world.



Elizabeth Neville: "Women are in a minority and that creates difficulties"

Women need middle ground, says newest police chief

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces still do not have enough women in their middle ranks at a time when opportunities for promotion have ceased to widen. Britain's newest woman chief constable says. Elizabeth Neville, appointed to lead the Wiltshire force, said women were sometimes shy about seeking promotion and there were fewer jobs available as superintendents.

Speaking as she began preparations to move from the deputy chief constable's seat in Northamptonshire, she said: "Women are in a minority and that creates its own difficulties. Promotions may settle down and level off instead of continuing to climb. The pool of officers to choose chief officers from is very small."

Leicestershire already has a woman chief constable, Patricia Clark. Senior women now meet during the year to discuss developments. Miss Neville, 43, an Oxford graduate, said women make up 14.5 per cent of police strength and a quarter of recruits, but this was a recent change.

She accepts that sexism and harassment exist, although she has never experienced them directly. They can be crushed with good personnel work and complaints systems, she said. The mother of two children, aged 10 and 12, she is divorced from another officer, now an assistant chief constable. She said: "My staff kept bringing me newspaper cuttings about divorce and mother of two. They never write that about men. I have got used to it."

Woman, 51, gives birth to her daughter's child

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE doctor who helped a 51-year-old grandmother to give birth to her own grandchild said yesterday the case was unlikely to be repeated.

John Webster, director of the Fertility Services Centre at BMI Park hospital, Nottingham, said most women did not discover they were infertile until well into their 30s, by which time their own mother would be too old to act as a surrogate.

Mr Webster was speaking after Caitlin Langston was born last Thursday to her grandmother Edith Jones. It is the first time such a birth has occurred in Britain.

Mrs Jones, who went through the menopause five years ago, agreed to carry the baby for her daughter, Suzanne Langston, 22, who was born without a womb. Eggs were removed from Mrs Langston's ovaries, fertilised with sperm from her husband, and two embryos were implanted in her mother's womb.

The 5lb 3oz girl, who was born by Caesarean section at Darlington Memorial hospital, is therefore genetically its mother's. However, legally, Mrs Jones is Caitlin's mother and her name will appear on the birth certificate. But in six weeks Mrs Langston and her husband, Chris, can apply to the courts for a Parental Order

that will make the baby officially theirs.

Mrs Jones, who admitted the pregnancy was more tiring than she had expected, said: "It is just wonderful to see Suzanne and Caitlin together. We have all waited a long time for this but it has been worth every minute."

Suzanne added: "The past few days have been out-of-this-world — the most marvellous time of my life. I can still hardly believe I now have my very own baby girl."

The world's first surrogate grandmother, Pat Anthony, gave birth to triplets which she had carried for her daughter, Karen, in South Africa in 1988. Ray Kennedy, the triplets' grandfather, said yesterday they were "super, bouncy children" who were unaffected by the unusual circumstances of their birth.

A man removed a ten-inch tube left in his wife's body after an operation by following instructions given to him over the phone by a nurse. South Tyneside Healthcare NHS Trust has apologised to Gillian Robson of Byker, Tyne and Wear, who has been offered a financial settlement. Her husband Paul, an industrial engineer, was told he might be able to remove the tube after the hospital said it could not perform the procedure until the next day.

Should mothers have been told?



A SERIES of legal actions by epileptic mothers against doctors and health authorities is due to start in the next few months. The mothers claim that their children's disabilities would have been avoided had they been warned of the dangers of treating their seizures with sodium valproate while they were pregnant.

A letter to *The Lancet* in 1986 analysed the increased risks of pregnant women having a child with congenital deformities to the spine if they had taken sodium valproate, marketed as Epilim, during the first three months of pregnancy.

Mention of a link between sodium valproate and congenital malformation had been made in other letters to medical journals since 1982. But it was the review in *The Lancet* which showed that the chance of having a baby with abnormalities to the spine such as spina bifida was increased fourfold. It is now recognised that children born to mothers taking sodium valproate also have an increased risk of having wide-apart eyes, a broad nose and varying degrees of physical and mental incapacity.

Since the 1986 report in *The Lancet* it has been generally

accepted that women should be told of the risk of taking sodium valproate and if they were to continue this treatment during a pregnancy it would need careful discussion and their informed consent.

There is a case for continuing treatment with Epilim in some instances when, if it were not to be prescribed, there would be a grave risk of the patient having seizures, which could damage the foetus.

Sodium valproate has other side-effects. The drug is hepatotoxic and patients who are taking it, whether pregnant or not, need to have their liver function tests monitored regularly. Periodic blood counts are also necessary so as to check platelet levels — the small particles in the blood involved in clotting. When testing for diabetes, sodium valproate makes the urine tests unreliable and blood tests have to be substituted. In other patients the drug has caused pancreatitis.

One unusual effect of sodium valproate is that in about 2 per cent of patients it makes their hair curl.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Families to how Dunt gifts will be



Living dangerously as Mother

STUFF THE SOC



Delia Smith has been called "the Volvo of cuisine — safe, reliable and totally organised"

TV and food brands are recipe for a chef's fortune

By Robin Young

BRITAIN'S leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multimillionaires. In a nation apparently obsessed with food yet increasingly incapable of cooking it, the chef is king and coining it.

The media exposure enjoyed by chefs is reaching extraordinary proportions. With some 30 regular cookery programmes on terrestrial television and almost double that number on cable and satellite, chefs are too busy racing from studio to studio to have much time for their restaurant stoves.

Anthony Worrall-Thompson, whose London restaurants include 190 Queensgate, dell'Ugo and Zou, said yesterday: "I was on 178 different programmes last year, yet I am not really up there at the top like the current favourites, *Two Fat Ladies*. Now they are really mega."

The most popular television chefs earn tens of thousands of pounds for each episode of their series and can add up to £100,000 from subsequent book sales. Advertising contracts are likely to be even more lucrative, with some estimates running as high as £500,000 for a national cam-



Fat ladies: Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson

campaign over a long period. Occasional television appearances net only hundreds of pounds.

The most commercially successful of the current crop of British chefs is Gary Rhodes, who recently quit the Greenhouse and People's Palace restaurants in London for a highly paid job with the industrial caterers Gardner Merchant and a lucrative contract advertising Tate & Lyle on television. His *Rhodes round Britain* television series have also been a success in book form, and according to recent research his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook.

Similarly popular among the culinarily incompetent is Keith Floyd, whose recent cookery television series have been one part travelogue, one part monologue and two parts another glass of wine. He has been rewarded with bountiful book sales, and though his Devon pub

business ran into money problems, he is further bankrolled by his Floyd on Bread endorsement which appears on bakery products sold in Safeway stores.

That is the way the future is likely to go, according to the advertising agency Leo Burnett. It has researched public attitudes to food and chefs and has decided that television chefs are "national brands in the making".

Mike Ainsworth, Burnett's business development director, said: "Nearly a fifth of the population cannot cook and are proud of it. They do not want to cook, but they still know and trust Gary Rhodes, Keith Floyd and Delia Smith." Smith, he says, "is the Volvo of British cuisine — safe, reliable, and totally organised". With her magazine tie-up with Sainsbury's she is, he believes, one of Britain's most fully developed chef-brands.

Others well-heeled in the business include the Roux Brothers (Michel is consultant to British Airways and Albert to enterprises as far away as Moscow), Raymond Blanc (consultant to Virgin Atlantic) and Anton Mosimann, who has an outside catering business and a range of fine foods and cookery products.



Gary Rhodes: his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook

Families to hear how Dunblane gifts will be used

By Shirley English

FAMILIES of victims of the Dunblane massacre will be told this week how some of the £7 million given by well-wishers is to be spent.

Three separate funds set up after the March 13 murders at Dunblane Primary School have collected £7.3 million between them. The largest, the Dunblane Fund, now stands at £4.5 million.

The Dunblane Fund trustees are expected to make an announcement, possibly tomorrow, about their spending plans. They may also set a closing date for donations, which are still coming in.

Profits from the Dunblane single, a rerecording of the Bob Dylan song, *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*, which goes on sale today, will not be given to any of the tragedy funds. All proceeds from the sale of the song, featuring 14 Dunblane children, will go to Save the Children, ChildLine and the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland.

Trustees of the Dunblane Fund have commissioned two roses in memory of Gwen Mayor, the teacher who died,

and the children. Work has also just started on a £100,000 landscaped memorial garden at Dunblane Cemetery, where some of Thomas Hamilton's victims are buried. It is being jointly funded by the Dunblane Fund and the Stirling Observer Dunblane Help Fund, a charitable trust set up by the local paper, which currently stands at £1.7 million.

The Dunblane Fund's primary purpose is to provide compensation and relief to those affected by the tragedy. Some money has already been distributed in interim payments to families of the bereaved and injured. Details of the payments are being kept confidential. A decision on the final distribution of funds to affected families is said to be imminent.

The third fund, run by Dunblane Primary School Board and the Parent Teachers Association, stands at about £1.1 million. The board has carried out a survey of parents to find out how they want the money to be spent. Early suggestions included providing a range of educational facilities, including language laboratories, computers and science equipment.

Meanwhile, Frank Cook, Labour MP for Stockton North, will attempt to raise questions in Parliament today about Thomas Hamilton's links with the Masons. He will claim that the killer was a member in 1977 although he stopped attending lodge meetings in 1986. He will also question the role of Central Scotland Police in allowing Hamilton to build up his arsenal of weapons and ammunition.



Cook will ask about killer's Masonic links

Living dangerously as Mother Goose

By Carol Midgley

A HEALTH warning has been issued to Mother Goose, Cinderella and Dick Whittington. Doctors say the energetic nature of pantomime performances puts actors at much greater risk of injury such as hernias.

Dudley Rogg, a director at the British Hernia Centre in London, said the number of patients visiting his clinic "dramatically increased" during the panto season.

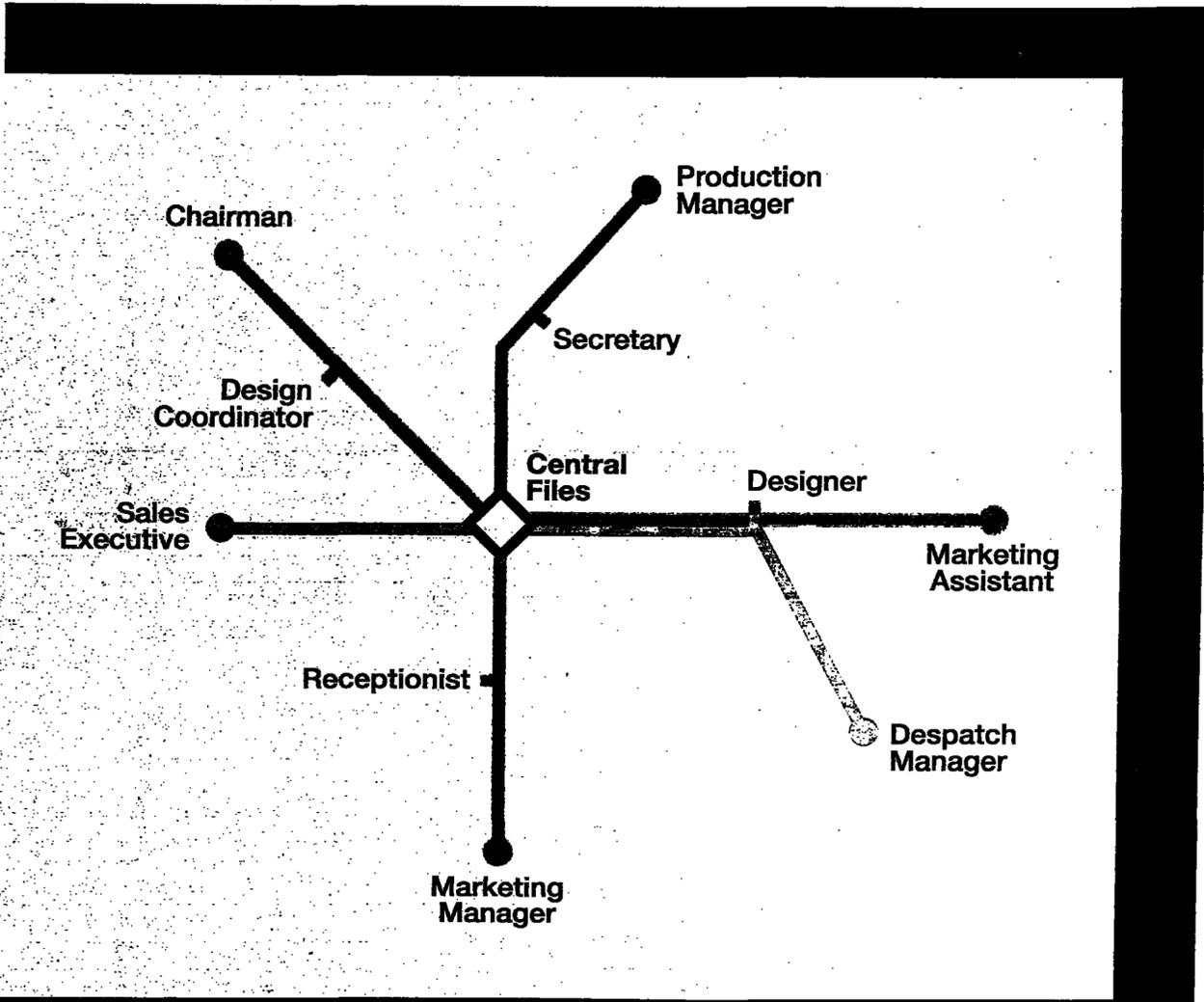
"It happens every year," Mr Rogg said. "We see an awful lot of actors coming in, it is really quite astonishing. Actors as a group are very macho, they have to leap and bound across the stage and hoist up their leading ladies."

Most are anxious to keep it quiet because they don't want to lose the work.

Paul Elliot, whose production company is involved with 33 pantomimes this year, said: "Pantomime is jolly hard work. Sheer fatigue is one of the main problems but we do get quite a few injuries."

"I think the most tiring part though is Matthew Kelly's as Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome. He has got to go through 18 changes of costume involving huge headresses then go up and down in a balloon. If anyone is a candidate for a hernia this year it's him."

Leading article, page 21



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Sunday shoppers join £23bn festive spending spree

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

SHOPS were last night counting takings substantially up on last year's, after Britain went on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full, with customers prepared to dig deeper than ever into their cash and credit. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year, even though the number of shoppers was only 3 per cent more.

Although the Christmas rush appeared to have started later this year, it gathered speed yesterday as millions of stores took advantage of the permitted six hours' Sunday opening. John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people passed through the doors after they opened at 11am. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110, he said.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived

soon after 7am for the 11am start. Chris Fear, the manager, said: "The car parks have been full every day for weeks and both Saturday and Sunday were no exception. Most nights we have been kicking people out at the 10pm closing time and we have done about 40 per cent of our business after 5.30pm."

A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink this year, £700 million more than last. The study, for the property consultants Healey and Baker, found that children could expect to receive presents worth about £7 billion, compared with £6.6 billion on adult presents and £6.9 billion on food and drink.

The Welsh and Scots are the most generous to their children, expecting to spend £202 and £200 a head respectively on presents for them, compared to the national average of £155. The Welsh indicate they will spend most in total at £650, £133 more than the average. Londoners expect to spend the least at £459.

The Welsh also topped the list on food, saying they will

spend £127, while Scots were at the bottom, predicting £91 against a national average of £108.

Retailers say there appears to have been a return to high-quality, high-priced gifts. So many personal computers and electronic games are being sold that major industrialists and military equipment manufacturers are said to face a shortage of microchips.

Chris Ward, a technology consultant, said: "During the summer, the price fell as production increased. But now the price has gone up by 50 per cent because of the huge increase in demand from individuals. It is very hard for aircraft manufacturers or missile contractors to obtain sufficient supply of the more powerful 16 or 32 megabyte chips."

The toy most in demand is a model of Buzz Lightyear, one of the heroes of the Disney film *Toy Story*. So many have been sold that many toy shops have run out of supplies. Harrods in central London said: "We have been told we will have no more in stock before Christmas."

RAF ace defends Bader from TV flak

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE most successful Spitfire pilot of the Second World War hit back yesterday at wartime associates of Sir Douglas Bader who criticise the *Battle of Britain* ace in a new television documentary.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson, who shot down 38 German fighters, described Bader as "the greatest Englishman I ever knew".

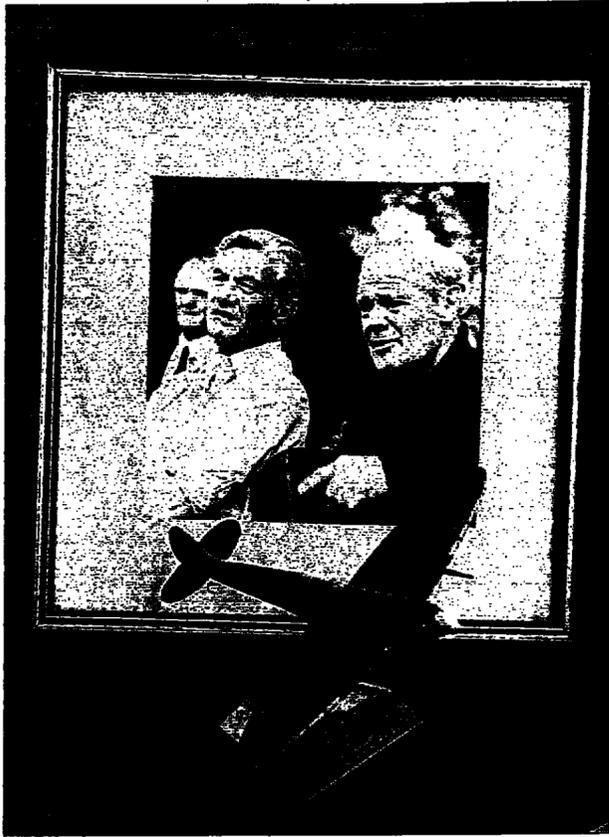
A "warts and all" documentary on the famous pilot who, after losing both legs in a flying accident, flew in the *Battle of Britain* with tin ones, is to be shown tonight on Channel 4 as part of *Secret Lives*. Johnnie Johnson was a 22-year-old pilot officer during the *Battle of Britain* when Bader was his wing commander.

The television documentary portrays Bader as a bloody-minded egomaniac who tried to laud it over his fellow officers. Most of his fellow prisoners in Colditz, where Bader was held after being captured by the Germans, were said to have hated him because of his "wild pranks".

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, 81, is one of the few surviving Spitfire pilots who flew with Bader and he remembers him with awe and affection. "I would compare him with Drake and Nelson. He was a splendid man."

Alex Ross, Bader's medical orderly at Colditz, says he had to carry Bader up and down flights of stone steps in the prison every day and was never thanked. He also says he was prevented by Bader from leaving Colditz in an exchange of medical personnel. Air Vice-Marshal Johnson said yesterday: "Who is this medical orderly? I've never heard of him and what gives him the right to criticise someone like Bader?"

He added: "He was an inspirational leader. He had the qualities of leadership that made it possible to do what we did." He admitted that Bader could sometimes have a rough tongue if pilots made mistakes. "But it was soon forgotten."



Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, top left, with Bader in 1982, three months before he died, and Bader climbing into his Spitfire in 1945 for a victory flypast

Quiz has solicitors guessing who broke the bed

By RICHARD FORD

A SCURRILOUS Christmas quiz disclosing sexual liaisons and drug-taking within City of London legal firms has triggered a guessing game among solicitors anxious to identify the prime suspects.

The questionnaire has been compiled from gossip gathered during the past year from solicitors willing to dish the dirt on colleagues and rivals. The 25-question quiz published in *Legal Business* magazine highlights alleged sexual antics, drunkenness and drug-taking but offers no prizes for the correct answers.

Question 1 asks: "Which City firm's chief executive stood up to make a speech at MIPIM [a trade fair] this year and promptly fell over because he was so drunk?"

Another asks which partner took a secretary to his home in Islington, north London, and proceeded to break the bed.

The magazine's readers are also asked which partner was allegedly discovered in *flagrante delicto* in the lavatory of a Birmingham restaurant.

"Too difficult? Then the magazine asked which partner in a City firm withdrew thousands of pounds from his bank, took the money home and rolled around naked in it, or which partner declared to his colleagues that he had made so much money in his last deal he was going to have a vital part of his anatomy cast in gold."

Or there are the questions asking at which law firm's party a journalist was offered cocaine, and which solicitor was arrested for dealing in Ecstasy.

Catrina Griffiths, editor of the magazine, said yesterday that the quiz was a bit of light relief, and that because lawyers had to be so controlled in court or in dealing with clients, they had a tendency to let their hair down when off-duty. "There are always two or three partners in most firms who are, shall we say, more experimental and wild in their behaviour than the rest."

Ms Griffiths said she had received no complaints but had been surprised by the number of people calling her wanting the answers.

Makers defend kit that puts a punch into pop

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE makers of a do-it-yourself "alco-pop" kit rejected demands yesterday for it to be withdrawn from shops, where it can be bought by children.

The alcohol-booster Splooch turns soft drinks into the equivalent of strong lager. On the front of the £4.99 kit is a cartoon logo showing two eyes looking the worse for drink.

Richard Danby, technical director of the makers, Continental Wine Experts in Norwich, said: "It is intended for the alco-pop market. It is meant to be the home-brew equivalent but we are certainly not targeting under-age drinkers. It takes ten days to

brew and that is a considerable disincentive."

"This product takes a lot of patience and planning, like any home-brew kit. We will take on board all the comments although we are unlikely to withdraw it."

The company also produces beer-making kits which, like Splooch, are not covered by licensing laws. A Splooch kit makes the equivalent of 27 standard 330ml bottles containing 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions saying that adding the booster to wines and beers could produce an alcohol content of up to 15 per cent.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said he would write to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, asking for Splooch to be banned.

A spokesman for the Portman Group, the brewing industry's self-regulatory body, said it had contacted the British Retail Consortium to advise its members to consider whether they should sell the product: "We would urge the manufacturers to rethink the packaging. There is nothing wrong with Splooch in itself but we are against cartoon-type packaging which might be attractive to adolescents."

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Court plea to cut £20m police bill for damages

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD is going to the Court of Appeal today in an attempt to cut back on the damages awarded against the Metropolitan Police in a series of cases. The Yard is also seeking guidelines for juries hearing actions against the police.

Two cases will be heard over two days in the court of the Master of the Rolls Lord Woolf, and lawyers for Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, could put forward challenges on another seven cases.

The actions come after mounting concern by Sir Paul and senior officers at the scale of damages. In 1995 Scotland Yard paid out £1.5 million in damages compared with £393,000 in 1986. Awards and costs are estimated to have cost the Metropolitan Police £20 million in the past ten years.

The Yard is challenging the award of £220,000 in March to Kenneth Hsu, 32, a hairdresser, who said he was wrongly arrested and assaulted after refusing to let police into his home in Streatham, southwest London, without a search warrant. It is also challenging the £51,000 for Claudette Thompson, 30, in June last year for assault and battery and false imprisonment.

David Pannick, QC, is appearing for Scotland Yard and the cases are the first of a series which could stretch into next year. The legal argument is likely to centre on the use of exemplary damages to punish and deter.

In a number of the cases where large awards have been made no action was taken against the officers concerned. The Yard would argue the awards were excessive.

Further cases that could go before the court include the record award of £302,000 to Daniel Goswell, 29, after he was hit with a truncheon while handcuffed and £150,000 in June to two Kurdish political refugees, Haci Bozkurt and Baki Ates.

Lawyers join forces to help child-sex victims

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS led by Cherie Booth, QC, are spearheading a campaign to help child-sex victims through undercover investigations of paedophile networks and reforms to criminal trials.

They have lent their backing to the Justice for Children project run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and seeking to raise £3 million for its work.

The lawyers steering the campaign — to be launched officially in January next month — include Sir Stephen Brown, the head of the High Court family division, Lord Borrie, formerly Director General of Fair Trading, and Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways and a lawyer. The City law firms Lovell White Durrant and Macfarlanes are also represented.

A programme of action is already under way. The NSPCC has a small team of social workers involved in undercover investigations of organised paedophile networks in London, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, but they have a limited budget and urgently need greater funding.

With the backing of the lawyers, the Justice for Children project is also making a training video for judges on how to deal with children in sex-abuse cases. The video, developed with the Judicial Studies Board but with substantial funding from the NSPCC, will be launched in the new year.

The lawyers are also supporting moves to secure reforms to the trial process.



Sir Stephen helping to steer campaign

These could see children cross-examined in judges' chambers, where no wigs or gowns are worn; reductions in delays in the hearing of child abuse cases, which average 10 months; improved facilities so that video links are the norm; waiting areas where children are not at risk of facing defendants.

Margaret McCabe, a barrister who with Ms Booth is joint organiser of the campaign to involve the legal

profession, said: "Many children feel that the court ordeal is worse than the original abuse. The extent of the problem is massive — we see one paedophilia case in chambers a week. And one paedophile can do harm to perhaps perhaps six to ten children."

She acknowledged there was concern, even hostility, within some quarters of the legal profession. "Some of the criminal Bar, while sympathetic, are also concerned about not putting the interests of justice, the interests of a fair trial, at risk," she said.

The NSPCC said much had been done to help to prepare children for the court; now work was needed to prepare courts for children. Neil Hunt, London regional director, welcomed the involvement of the legal profession: "It is obviously partly about fund-raising but also about promoting our policies as well as backing operational work."

Last week the charity Childline reported the trauma of many who report incidents. There were about 54,000 protection referrals for sexual abuse in 1994 but fewer than 500 convictions.

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C of E halts fall in congregations to overtake Catholics

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SUNDAY attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in recent history. Figures for the congregations for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will nose ahead by about 1,000.

Although the Church of England is the established church and still baptises, marries and buries most of the country's Christian population, it has traditionally lagged behind in the number of people in the pews.

Tables in the *Catholic Directory 1997* show a drop of 55,000 in the average Mass attendance between 1994 and 1995, more than the number of churchgoing Catholics in the whole of Wales. While 1.19 million went in 1994, this fell to 1.135 million last year.

Figures for last year are not yet available for the Church of England. The latest attendance figures for England and Wales, for 1994, give an average Sunday turnout of 1.136 million. That is still marginally below the Catholic figures for 1994 but statisticians say the differing rate of decline in each church means that the Anglicans will inch ahead this year or next.

Now members of both churches are anxiously awaiting the Anglican Church figures for last year, due to be published early in the new year.

The new Catholic Church figures show that the number of Catholic baptisms in 1995

Church of England (average Sunday attendance)	1994	1,136,000
1995	1,081,000	
Roman Catholic Church in England (average Mass attendance)	1994	1,141,604
1995	1,087,589	
Church of England and Church in Wales (average Sunday attendance - combined figures)	1994	1,134,000
1995	1,076,000	
Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales (average Mass attendance)	1994	1,190,307
1995	1,135,047	

Sources: Church of England, Church in Wales, Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales

million in the late 1960s. Churchgoing in the Church of England was then at 1.6 million. Figures for Wales are not available but are thought to have stood at about 120,000, leaving the Anglicans far behind the Catholics.

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, said: "The Church of England is livelier and spiritually more healthy than it has been for some time. It gives me no joy to witness declining numbers in our sister Catholic Church. The denominations need each other to be strong so that together we can witness to the gospel in an unbelieving world."

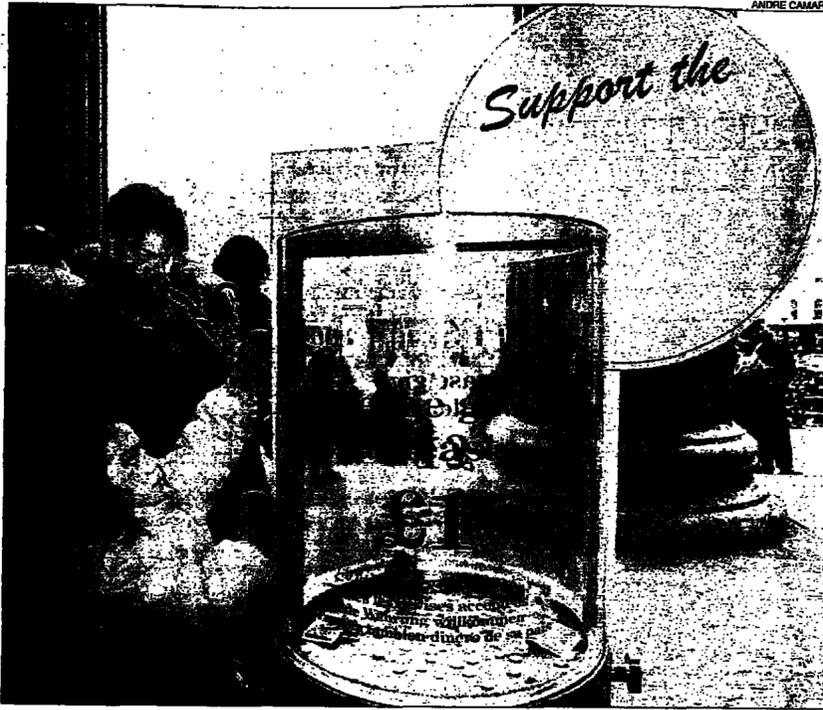
Monsignor Kieran Conry, of the Catholic Media Office, said: "I am pleased for the Anglicans if numbers are picking up. We have had more people in church for some years but that was more to do with the decline in Anglican practice than any growth in the Catholic mass attendance."

also fell, from 75,236 to 74,848 and the number of marriages from 18,344 to 17,294. The number of Catholic parish churches has increased by 27, from 2,829 to 2,856.

Unlike in the Anglican Church, where the decline that has been a feature since the 1960s has slowed, the rate of decline in the Catholic Church is accelerating. According to recent research by Cafod, the Catholic overseas development agency, the next decade will see a drop by at least half of today's Mass attendance to fewer than 600,000.

Anglicans, however, believe their decline has bottomed out and figures over the past few years have shown attendance remaining roughly steady.

In the Catholic Church, where weekly mass attendance was once considered compulsory, churchgoing peaked at more than two



A little help but a long way to go: a weekend visitor reaches to make a donation at the British Museum

Job fears at British Museum

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE British Museum may make job cuts and slash departmental budgets after ruling out admission charges in the immediate future.

The trustees met at the weekend to discuss a report from Andrew Edwards, a former deputy secretary in the Treasury, which said that the museum's finances were in disarray and predicted a £25 million shortfall over the next three years. He recommended an admission fee of £5 or £6 to raise £8 million a year.

A statement from the trustees said they had rejected admission fees for the time being but "the introduction cannot be ruled out". They added: "All areas of expenditure and income generation are being appraised, including staff levels. It is inevitable that there will have to be some curtailment of activity but the trustees are determined to continue to provide a good level of service."

The new British Library may consider charges. Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, is reported to have told staff of his intention to investigate the implications of charging.

Food poison death toll rises to nine as shop staff fall sick

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A NINTH pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic, which is now affecting 386 people. The latest victim, an elderly woman who has not been named, died after being released from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary on Friday.

She had been recovering from the *E. coli* 0157 infection and her condition had improved enough for her to go to a nursing home.

It emerged over the weekend that seven staff at the award-winning butcher's shop thought to be the source of the food poisoning outbreak have shown symptoms of being infected with the *E. coli* 0157 bacteria.

North Lanarkshire environmental health officers said the workers became infected after the outbreak and were not carrying the bug while serving in the Wishaw shop of John M Barr & Son. Mr Barr employs about 40 staff.

Out of the 386 people now affected by apparent food poisoning, 204 have now been confirmed as having *E. coli* 0157. Sixteen adults being treated at Monklands Hospital, Airdrie, and an elderly woman transferred to Stobhill Hospital from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary, are seriously ill.

Lanarkshire Health Board launched a health awareness campaign this weekend to warn the public how they can best minimise the risk of food poisoning. Thousands of leaf-

lets, *E. coli* - Advice To You, have been distributed in Lanarkshire, the area worst affected by the outbreak, at football grounds, shopping precincts, markets, hospitals and in churches.

The 11-point message, which includes practical advice on storage of meat and personal hygiene, will be reinforced by adverts in local newspapers this week.

Health experts believe there is no longer any potential risk from the 82 outlets supplied by the Wishaw butcher, providing no cooked meats or meat products from Barr's shop remain on these premises. Affected stores are said to have been thoroughly cleaned and the environmental health department is "satisfied that the potential risk of the transmission of *E. coli* 0157 from having stocked Mr Barr's products no longer exists".

It has emerged meanwhile that an antidote to the *E. coli* bacteria, developed in Canada, is due to begin trials in Britain next year. Lanarkshire Health Board said, however, that the current outbreak featured a particularly severe strain of *E. coli* and it was not yet known if the antidote would be effective against it.

On Tesside this weekend a 90-year-old woman infected with *E. coli* 0157 died. It was also confirmed that another pensioner on Tesside was being treated for the bacteria. Neither case is linked to the Scottish epidemic.

Bank sued over home's negative equilibrium

By PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN is suing Barclays Bank and its surveyors over a hole that threatens to engulf her home. Already part of Jane Britton's garage has slipped into it and she has spent £4,000 tipping tons of rubble into the hole to prevent her three-bedroomed house going the same way.

Problems began within weeks of the family moving into the £55,000 house in Ripon, north Yorkshire, two years ago. The front garden subsided, leaving a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep.

Mrs Britton, 51, had not been told that the seven-year-old house had been built over gypsum deposits, which dissolve on contact with water. She said: "I asked for a structural survey, the bank's surveyor didn't spot it. When I first saw it, I just screamed." Despite the rubble the hole keeps re-appearing, each time bigger than before. Mrs

Britton, who lives with Eddie Newcombe and their two children, Charlotte, 9, and Charlie, 8, said: "What we have now is a house that is worthless and a problem with the land that threatens to literally swallow us up."

The hardcore costs £2,000 a time. She said: "The insurance company has paid up five times and I have paid the bill twice but it can't keep going on like this for much longer." Her insurers are now refusing to pay because they say it is a natural disaster.

The British Geological Survey has produced a report which claims that the problem was known about as far back as 1968. Mrs Britton is claiming £200,000 from Barclays - which advanced her £20,000 mortgage - and the previous owner. A preliminary High Court date has been fixed for later this month.

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Wind of change puts Ratty on rescue list with rhino

By DANIEL MCGRODY

HE IS the stoical star of Christmas productions of *The Wind in the Willows*. But the real-life Ratty faces near extinction by the end of the century.

The water vole, on which the character in Kenneth Grahame's immortal novel was modelled, is one of 600 species of flora and fauna in danger of disappearing from the British countryside. That is why the charity Tusk Force is dedicated to saving humble native mammals as well as funding high-profile and dangerous operations to track poachers that hunt the Siberian tiger and black rhino.

Extinction is no respecter of size. Neeta Bettridge, the charity's director, said: "We cannot lecture other countries about the need to protect the African elephant or the black bear and then ignore the destruction of our native species."

Tusk Force is also working with others in the Highlands of Scotland to protect species such as the wildcat and the red squirrel. When Kenneth Grahame walked the riverbanks 90 years ago, there was no shortage of water voles to amuse and educate him as he fashioned Ratty's character. When Mole says what "a jolly life" it



Inspiration for Ratty: water vole, now at risk

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out the first systematic survey in ditches, ponds, wetlands and rivers from the Dee to the Thames. Their findings show the water vole had gone from the rivers Evenlode, Gade, Lambourn, Loddon, Mole and Wey. Along the Thames, signs of the mammal were found at only two sites.

The water vole is now listed on the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan, which means the Government must devise a scheme for the species to survive. Over the coming year, Tusk Force will be improving waterside habitats for water voles by creating experimental sanctuaries.

Although possessed of neither waterproof fur nor webbed feet, water voles like to build their homes in reed-covered banks beside slow-flowing ditches, streams and rivers. Over the centuries, Ratty has survived the predation of owls, stoats, weasels and foxes but the species is no match for mink that have escaped from farms to colonise the riverbank.

Rob Strachan, a biologist with the Oxford Unit, said: "Since the start of this century there has been a gradual decline in water voles. By the year 2000, only 6 per cent of water vole sites known to have existed 100 years ago will be left."



Mole visits Ratty on the riverbank: "It's my world, and I don't want any other."

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Rising tide of clutter 'killing the countryside'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE countryside is being subjected to "death by a thousand cuts" from the ugly clutter of a modern society that cares little for rural beauty and tranquillity, conservationists say.

Relaxation of controls on the advertisement of commercial premises could see thousands of disfiguring new road signs sprouting all over the country next year, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). The threat is highlighted in a CPRE report published today urging local councils and the public to join a campaign against the rising tide of what it calls "countryside clutter".

It is not just large-scale developments... that cause harm", Jonathan Dimbleby, the CPRE president, said. "The gradual accumulation of small changes can have a dramatic effect over time, suburbanising the countryside and hiding its special character and beauty."

The CPRE is particularly alarmed by the spread of unnecessary and intrusive road signs, inappropriate advertisements, insensitively sited telecommunications masts and garishly designed roadside restaurants. Earlier this year, in the name of deregulation, the Department of Trans-

port greatly relaxed the rules governing the erection of the white-on-brown tourist signs. Neil Sinden, CPRE's planning and heritage campaigner, said: "Under the new rules any business open to the public without prior booking during normal opening hours is eligible to apply for the signs. This means that cinemas, pubs, shops, restaurants, hotels and bed-and-breakfast operators all now qualify."

The Countryside Commission, the Government's landscape adviser, has estimated that the relaxation of controls, which it strongly opposed, could lead to half a million new white-on-brown signs being erected. More alarmingly, the Department of Transport is proposing to allow commercial sponsorship of road signposts. The department has also issued proposals for a completely new class of signs for commercial premises not covered by the new rules on tourist white-on-brown signs. A separate proposal by the Environment Department to abolish regulations banning outdoor hoardings in "areas of special control of advertisements", which cover half the countryside, has been dropped but only "for the time being".

Storm brewing over Met Office accuracy

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE Met Office claim that its BBC Radio 4 forecasts are 94 per cent accurate was challenged yesterday by a weather expert. Dr John Thornes, director of the Climate and Atmospheric Research Centre at Birmingham University, said some rainfall forecasts were less than 50 per cent right.

He will call at a meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society in London on Wednesday for verification of Met Office forecasts by an independent body - an "Ofmet". The Met Office said that would be "inappropriate" because its performance was already

monitored by the National Audit Office. Dr Thornes believes commercialisation of forecasting has put more emphasis on presentation and less on precision. Even if the 94 per cent figure is right, he questions its value for money. "If you predict the weather by saying it will be the same tomorrow as it is today, you will be about 60 per cent right," he said. "This means that a lot of public money is going into something which only improves accuracy by about 20 per cent."

Forecast, page 24

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Falkland
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Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour

FROM MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN PORT STANLEY

TODAY is Battle Day in the Falkland Islands, the anniversary of the fierce naval engagement in 1914 when the Royal Navy destroyed a large German fleet under the command of Admiral von Spee moored off the Falklands.

But as the islanders celebrate with parades, games and a public holiday, many are wondering whether they will soon have to fight a new battle with a Labour government determined to nudge them into closer relations with Argentina. Their worries have been provoked by a statement from Tony Lloyd, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, during a recent visit here when he urged the islanders to forge closer relations with Buenos Aires and prepare for a normalisation of contacts. He also condemned as "an absurd anomaly" the current ban on Argentine passport holders entering the islands. Mr Lloyd's remarks touched raw nerves. Older

Falklanders, with bitter memories of the 1982 invasion, are determined to have nothing to do with Argentina. They see no reason why anyone holding an Argentine passport should be allowed to land as long as the Menem Government makes a constitutional claim on the islands' sovereignty.

"If someone is coming to steal everything in your house, you don't let him in by the front door" is a common sentiment.

Many are nervous, however, that a future Labour government would push harder than the Conservatives for normalisation. They also recognise that, although Labour wishes for self-determination are paramount, they do not want this distant dependent territory to be seen as a "Tony trophy". Margaret Thatcher's triumphant identification with the Falkland cause makes most people here wary of Labour.

Yesterday, however, the church ceremonies were as robust as ever, touching as always on the other key date here, June 14 or Liberation Day. Volunteers from the Falkland Islands Defence Force drew up a guard of honour around the 1914 War memorial as Richard Rait, the Governor, in plumes and full ceremonial dress, reassured Britain's commitment and laid a memorial wreath. The little force of around 90 men and four women has no doubt that it would play a vital role in defending Port Stanley, were there ever to be another invasion.

Most islanders, however, see no imminent threat and are comforted by the daily sight of RAF Tornado jets streaking across the bleak moorland on training flights from the base at Mount Pleasant. Commanders of the three British services based there see no immediate danger from Argentina, but say that without 24-hour radar surveillance and constant preparedness, headline nationalists in Argentina might be tempted once again to mount a military expedition.

Falkland Islanders are more worried by a peaceful civilian expedition of tourists. Already a large number of Argentinians come here travelling on other passports. The headline councillors say that allowing free entry to anyone would create a dangerous precedent and give up the Falklands' only leverage.

There is even a lingering resentment that a second visit here by the close relatives of more than 250 Argentinians buried on a windswept hill near Goose Green is to go ahead next month. The families will be kept hidden away in a hotel disused for two years and will not be allowed to stay more than one night.

"It's far too early to let them all come back," one islander said. He said many people wanted to see whether the new agreement with Buenos Aires on fishing and oil exploration would work properly before further normalisation could be contemplated.



Falkland Islanders fear a second Argentine invasion



Small investors protest outside the stock exchange in Dhaka yesterday over the sudden fall in share prices. They are demanding intervention by the state

Protest closes Dhaka bourse

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DHAKA

A DEMONSTRATION by roadside traders yesterday outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange forced the suspension of trading for the second consecutive day, officials said.

"Trading in the bourse has been suspended because brokers could not turn up due to the continued sit-in demonstration by the traders," an official in Dhaka said.

The protesters also obstructed stock exchange staff and officials trying to enter the

bourse building in Dhaka's Motijheel commercial district.

The unauthorised roadside market traders began their sit-in on Saturday to press their demands to revive the share market to its previous bullish trading. The traders, aggrieved by a big slide in share prices, blamed brokers for manipulating the market and demanded action.

They also demanded transparency in stock exchange trading and the inclusion of

government representatives and roadside market traders on the bourse council.

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Forgery charge in cave art dispute

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRENCH official has been charged with forgery amid accusations of a state-orchestrated plot to defraud potholers who uncovered the world's most spectacular set of prehistoric cave paintings.

Patrice Béghain, 52, was last week accused of falsifying documents in an attempt to demonstrate that the French Government should reap financial benefits from the 30,000-year-old Chauvet cave in the Ardèche region. He denies the charge.

The cave contains the most extensive collection of prehistoric art yet found, including 600 vivid paintings of mammoths, reindeer, bison, panthers and two rhinoceroses locked in head-to-head combat. With its potential as a multi-million franc tourist attraction, "la grotte Chauvet", 40 miles northwest of Avignon, is at the centre of a legal imbroglio involving the Culture Ministry, the potholers who revealed its existence, and local landowners.

Observers say it will remain closed for some time as a multitude of cases come before the courts. The principal action was brought against the French state by Jean-Marie Chauvet, the man who stumbled upon the cavern while potholing with friends on Christmas Eve in 1994.

A national archaeological service employee, M Chauvet says there are "no words to describe the unimaginable scale of walls completely covered with paintings". He says he should enjoy a share of the benefits from the sale of photographs and, possibly, future tourist revenue.

The Culture Ministry disagrees, saying he should get nothing because he works for the state, which was thus responsible for the discovery and its financial spin-offs. M Béghain, head of the regional directorate of cultural affairs, produced a document to show that M Chauvet had been on a government mission at the time of his find.

But last week, the Lyons-based investigating judge, Gilbert Emery, charged the official with falsifying the document, lending weight to M Chauvet's claims of a plot.

African delegation wins truce

Bangui: Rebel soldiers and forces loyal to the Central African Republic's President, Ange-Félix Patasse, have agreed to a two-week truce and to allow time for the introduction of a ten-point peace plan, a delegation of African leaders said here.

Under the truce, which takes immediate effect, the sides retain their weapons and will remain in the positions they now hold, pending the application of the peace plan.

Sources close to the republic's ruling MLPC party say about 100 people have died since the unrest began on November 15. The militaries wanted the resignation of President Patasse, whom they accuse of high treason. (AFP)

5,000 arrested

Delhi: More than 5,000 people were detained after protests as Jayaram Jayalalitha, 48, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, was arrested in Madras on a corruption charge. (Reuters)

Memorial call

Berlin: Gays here have called for a memorial to mark the Nazis' attempt to wipe out homosexuals. Estimates put the number of "pink triangle" victims at between 10,000 and 15,000. (Reuters)

Ministers quit

Kathmandu: The Government of Sher Bahadur Deuba, Nepal's Prime Minister, appeared in jeopardy after seven ministers resigned and opposition Communists demanded a no-confidence vote. (Reuters)

Athlete deported

Jerusalem: Vlachislav Ivanovski, a weightlifter on the Israeli Olympic team who is from Siberia, is being deported for fraudulently obtaining citizenship by paying an Israeli woman to marry him. (AP)

Hanging on

Tokyo: Japan plans to put 20 stationary airships 12½ miles up in the stratosphere as radio relay stations for mobile telephones to counter its problems as a mountainous country, a newspaper reported. (AFP)

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Clinton claims fall of two million in people on welfare

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton has hailed and claimed credit for a fall of 2.1 million in the number of people receiving welfare since he took office four years ago, in a move which will reignite controversy over welfare reforms.

"This is the biggest drop in the welfare rolls in history," he said on Saturday in his weekly radio address. The figures also showed that nearly three quarters of a million people have stopped receiving welfare — income-related benefits paid by federal or state government — in the past seven months.

The figures come as the White House prepares to battle with the Republican-backed Congress over the welfare reform Bill which Mr Clinton signed in September, having vetoed it twice. Critics of the new laws, which remove benefits from people who do not seek work, say they are too harsh on the poorest members of society.

'Corporate wife' in \$49m divorce case

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE "corporate wife" of a General Electric executive is seeking half of his estimated \$98 million (£60 million) fortune in a divorce case, arguing that she put as much work into his career as he did.

Lorna Wendt, 53, says that during the couple's 31-year marriage she performed such company services as hosting dinner parties and organising trips abroad, offering advice on job applicants and socialising with VIPs, giving tips on shopping to the wives of employees, and even babysitting their children.

Describing herself as "the ultimate hostess", Mrs Wendt told a court in Connecticut: "I took my job very seriously."

Gary Wendt, 54, is the head of GE's Capital Services unit and has been mentioned as a possible successor to Jack Welch as head of the whole GE empire. Claiming that he is only worth \$52 million, he has offered his wife \$8 million, plus \$250,000 a year.

"I know what Lorna's needs are, and I want her to be able to live very, very comfortably after we're divorced, and I think that's the kind of number that should allow her to do that," he said in a deposition obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Experts say Mrs Wendt has an unusually strong case which could mark a breakthrough for the wives of the super-rich, who are usually awarded far less than half the estate under an unofficial doctrine that "enough is enough".



Fidel Castro and his brother, Raúl, centre, standing side-by-side to greet the public during an act of commemoration marking the hundredth anniversary of the death, during Cuba's war of independence from Spain, of General Antonio Maceo (David Adams writes in Miami).

Castro promise of Communist future

On the platform with the brothers is Comandante Juan Almeida, left, a member of the ruling Council of State. Raúl Castro, Cuba's Vice-President and Defence Minister, took the opportunity to pledge to carry communism into the 21st century.

ton — the anniversary of the general's death in Ciego de Avila, near Havana, was also a reminder of Cuba's resistance to European meddling in its affairs. Last week the European Union approved a policy on Cuba, demanding greater respect for human rights and democratic reforms as a condition for European economic co-operation.

Japanese Princess laments media 'distortion'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Crown Princess Masako has hit back at the foreign and domestic media for what she called a distorted portrayal of her life behind the walls of the palace, but admitted she had found it hard to conform.

For Princess Masako, it has been a year of great media attention focusing on public disappointment with her somewhat reclusive lifestyle and on whether she will produce an heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

When she first got married many thought she would become a new role model for Japanese women, breaking the traditional conservative mould. But she rapidly fell in with palace protocol.

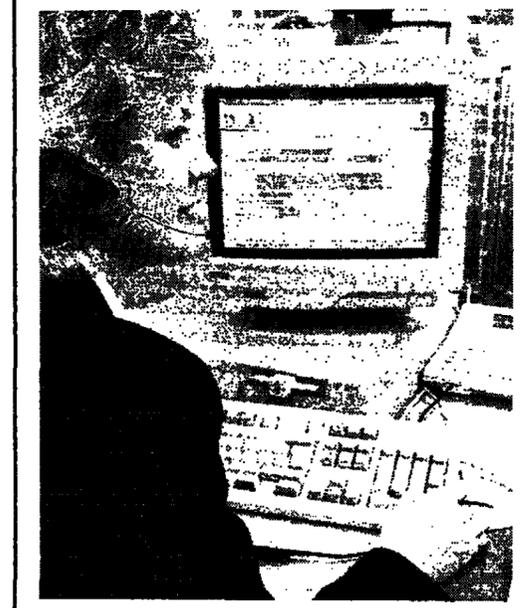
so? Isn't it a little too exaggerated?" The Princess also turned on Japanese weekly magazines, which feature celebrity gossip, and particularly royal affairs. "I often see them pursue arguments ... centring on unwarranted speculation about the Imperial Family, the Imperial Household Agency and myself and carry sensational headlines," she said.



Masako: has fallen in with palace protocol

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Starving Kabul sells bones of the dead to survive

In an alley beside Kabul's blue mosque, ragged, lean figures shoveled bones into sacks before loading them onto the back of a decrepit, gaudily painted lorry.

There were animal bones and human bones. People here are so desperate they are selling their dead on the streets of Kabul.

Taliks, Uzbeks, Pashtuns, Hazaras, the descendants of Alexander's army and Uthman's Mongol hordes, jostle one another in the bazaars and street stalls selling everything from the most ornate Persian carpets down to the most useless junk and mere crusts of bread.

It was several days before I noticed the piles of bones in the market stalls. These seemed to be more each day, and late one afternoon I stopped to ask a stallholder what they were for.

"Oh, they are brought by merchants here and sold on in bulk to Pakistan," he replied. There they are used to make soap, cooking oil and chicken feed.

I asked how much the bones were worth. Then, in a moment of intuition, I asked how much for human bones.

"The same price," he said, nonplussed, "they are often easier to get."

There was no humour in his eyes and he turned away, bored with the conversation. But his words left an echo that stripped away the superficial excitement of the bazaars and revealed the poverty of the world beneath.

The average skeleton of a dead adult male Afghan weighs about 13lb, which makes it worth up to 7,000 Afghanis in the bazaars, or just over half a US dollar. It is good money in Kabul.

Inflation has been running at more than 400 per cent since January, with no increase in wages, and the capital's almost non-existent economy was damaged further by Taleban's decree banning women from working.

Prices, which initially dropped after Taleban's takeover of the city, have risen to their original levels as the result of Pakistani and Taleban taxes on goods entering the country. A 14lb bag of flour costs about 32,000 Afghanis and most Kabul families have at least six mouths to feed. The residents of Kabul face their worst winter ever, here the trade in human bones.

"I used to dig for scrap iron, but the Taleban forbade it being exported to Pakistan when they captured Kabul," says Faizdeen, in the Ashagan Arefan graveyard in the west of the city. "So now I dig for bones."

It is 14 years old, dressed in torn, dirt clothes, and malnutrition has cracked the skin on the sides of his face and prematurely withered his hands. He has a tatty cotton bag in his hands, which he opens proudly for examination. A tibia sticks out of the opening. Beside it lies a jumble of smaller bones, all human, all taken from the graveyard. He is typical of the city's



Anthony Loyd in Kabul reports from a ruined and impoverished city where children have become family breadwinners by robbing graves, not for jewellery but for bones that are exported to Pakistan

street urchins. More than 28,000 were employed in some form of labour at the last count and the number is rising. By robbing graves, Faizdeen earns twice as much as a civil servant.

One of a family of eight, his parents are without work. Two months ago a group of his friends took him grave-robbing. They sold the bones to one of the boneyards that have sprung up behind the blue mosque. Faizdeen returned home and asked his father, in the tradition of deference in Afghan families, for permission to start selling bones full time. His father thought for a while, then acquiesced.

"It's good business," Faizdeen says. "There is no other work, the scrap iron trade has finished and we need the money for food. Though I often pick animal bones, human ones are easier to find here. The money is the same and with it I can support my family."

Six days a week he goes out to the graveyards with his cotton sack and stick and starts scratching the bones from the earth. It is not difficult, though he prefers to pick a time when the graveyards are deserted as, though the business of digging is

now monopolised by children, sometimes elderly men chase the diggers away. On a good day he collects up to 25lb of bones.

The Ashagan Arefan cemetery, spilling down from rocky, bare earth slopes and named after one of two Afghan brothers who were "martyred" fighting the British in 1919, was a front line between forces loyal to the Government and those of General Dostum for almost a year. Shellfire broke open many of the caskets, exhumed bodies from the simpler graves, and scattered bones across the hillside.

Soil erosion and the work of the grave robbers has uncovered many more. For these reasons it is a good place to dig, though other favoured cemeteries include the city's largest, the Shohada Soleheen ("place of pure martyrs") beneath the Bala Hissar fortress in the south of Kabul, and the ancient Dashtbarchi ("Desert of Barchi") site in the west of the capital.

Attitudes to the trade vary. Though they are a proud people and the business is obviously haram, forbidden by their faith, the 17-year war, of which there is still no end in sight, has undermined many of the society's



Children at one of Kabul's military cemeteries scavenge for bones among the victims of Afghanistan's 17-year war

moral constraints. "I don't stop my children from working the graves," remarked Qadagha, the father of two bone-trading sons. "It is not good but what can we do? It's work and money and our only thoughts are for food."

For the sake of subtly the grave robbers smash the skulls they find with rocks, sometimes burning the jawbones to disguise their telling shape.

Though Taleban's strict imposition of Sharia (religious) law has enforced a degree of discipline, ironically it is their presence that has allowed the human bone trade to begin.

"The last Government banned the bone trade," says Nowsher, the owner of a large boneyard in Morad Kham by the blue mosque. "The biggest trade in their times was iron. Then the Taleban came and since [Benazir] Bhutto fell in Pakistan they banned the export of iron there, and few traders here risk buying it off the children any more. So the bone trade has taken off."

"Dogs, cows, people, the lot. When the Taleban asked about it, we said we dealt in animal bones to be used for chicken feed. If they knew different they would close it down. But they fell for it, and left us alone."

"The money is excellent. You can buy a kilo here for up to two 'kaldars' (one kaldar is about 510 Afghan rupees, a term like 'a guinea'), and sell it in Pakistan for 15 kaldars."

Piles of broken bones from dogs, cows, horses, donkeys and humans lie around him, grey in the sunlight like shingle on the beach, one particular pile topped exotically by a human pelvis. Nowsher opened his yard a month ago, buying bones from the collectors (usually teenage "fences" that buy off the grave robbers) and exporting them to Lahore on the back of lorries.

Nothing can mask Afghanistan's grim reality, neither the beauty of the carpets, the magnificence of the mountains, nor the sweep of the Afghan skies. The war whirled around this city for years, then swept into it, then left it behind, a ruin. Pakistan, the current exporter of so much misery to Afghanistan, via its supply of military hardware to Taleban, has ironically become the importer of dead Afghans for use as chicken feed and cooking oil.

"You see what we have come to," whispered an Afghan teacher beside me as I watched some children selling bones to a trader, who weighed them on a set of large scales. "No work, no food, no hope. A generation with no education that has known only war. This is what it has come to: human remains sold as animal bones. Look at our miserable lives; even the rich of this place stop in the street and beg for money."



The human and animal bones these children collect are sold to Pakistan where they are processed into soap, cooking oil and chicken feed

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SECURITY

Security Council to vet African rivals for 'job from hell'

By William Shawcross

THERE are now four African candidates named by their various countries to succeed Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

They are Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast Foreign Minister; Hamid Alabidi, the former Prime Minister of Niger and secretary-general of the Islamic Conference; Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, of Mauritania, a former UN envoy in Burundi, and Kofi Annan of Ghana, now head of the UN's peace-keeping department.

Other African names may yet emerge. It is likely that a first informal straw poll will be taken in the Security Council today. A decision on the next leader of the organisation needs to be taken before the delegates return home on December 17.

Whoever wins will have a job from hell. The UN suffers from a huge financial crisis, a crisis in perceptions around the world, and a crisis of morale within the organisation.

The new Secretary-General must effect a reconciliation with the United States, where the UN is broadly distrusted, and which owes it a fortune. He or she would also reconcile Third World countries to root-and-branch reforms and cuts.

Of the four named so far, only Mr Annan has a proven track record of broad international administrative experience. He is an international manager, not a politician. He is a "known quantity" to most states, and speaks French fluently, which is vital to Paris. He has direct experience of managing the human resources of the UN.

As a result, he is in the difficult position of being the front-runner. If he is overtaken in the last furlong it will be by politics, not by anyone more qualified for the job.

Mr Annan, 58, has worked for more than three decades in the UN system. He led senior

Cape Town: President Mandela said yesterday that President Chirac would veto Salim Salim of Tanzania as United Nations Secretary-General because he was not fluent in French. Mr Mandela said South Africa had nominated him partly because of his support for the anti-apartheid struggle. (Reuters)

positions in almost all of the UN's most difficult departments — finance, personnel, peacekeeping — and yet has come out of each of them with an enhanced reputation.

Since 1962, he has worked for the UN, for the High Commissioner of Refugees and the World Health Organisation, in Geneva, Addis Ababa, Cairo and Ismailia. At the UNHCR he was director of budget, deputy director of administration and head of personnel at a time when the agency was expanding fast to cope with the huge numbers of refugees worldwide.

When he came to peacekeeping, Annan was seen as an economist and financial manager. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait he was sent by

the Secretary-General to Iraq to help with the repatriation of 900 international staff. He also became engaged in the humanitarian crisis and in particular the plight of 500,000 Asians stranded in Kuwait and Iraq.

In 1991 he proposed "a modest extension of the United Nations' peacekeeping role" to Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the then Secretary-General, who thought it would seem an infringement of national sovereignty. Two years later there were thousands of lightly-armed UN soldiers doing just that in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia.

When he took over the peacekeeping department in March 1993, he said "we all had higher hopes for peacekeeping. The Cold War was over. The new consensus in the Security Council permitted agreement on operations that had not been possible."

As a result peacekeeping expanded as never before. There were at one time 18 different operations around the world, deploying 70,000 troops. They were all managed out of Mr Annan's office in New York. Much was achieved in many of those operations, but the very public agonies of Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda all helped to destroy optimism.

Mr Annan recognised that the nature of peacekeeping had changed. The UN was no longer keeping armies apart but dealing with "militarised paramilitary groups, militias and uncontrolled elements" which disregard whatever their nominal leaders may agree.

However, he upset African ambassadors in 1994 when he told *Le Monde* that it was difficult to recruit African troops for peacekeeping missions because their governments "probably need their armies to intimidate their own populations".



Annan: has a proven record as manager



An Accra voter holds her registration card in her mouth as she casts her ballot in the presidential election.

Opposition make gains in Ghana

Accra: Early results in the Ghanaian elections suggest that the main opposition (New Patriotic Party) has made significant gains, especially in its Ashanti stronghold in the towns (Michael Pto-Duschinsky writes). However, it will probably fail to deny Jerry Rawlings, who has ruled since a 1981 military coup, an outright victory in the presidential poll.

Ghana is reacting with relief and pride to the absence of violence which it had been feared, would accompany Saturday's elections. Only last week there was a political lynching in the Kumasi area — an opposition stronghold.

If the sitting President fails to win at least 50 per cent of the vote there will be a runoff election in three weeks' time. The opposition parties, and particularly the NPP, is likely to gain a considerable number of parliamentary seats and will form an important presence in Ghanaian public life. Turnout throughout the country was about 73 per cent.

Freud's birthplace is massage parlour

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMBITIOUS plans to turn the birthplace of Sigmund Freud, the Austrian psychiatrist who uncovered the central role of sexuality in human nature, into a museum have been thwarted.

The owner has turned the building — in the Czech Republic — into a massage parlour.

"I think Freud would have regarded the house's current usage with some amusement," Shmuel Erlich, the Sigmund Freud professor of psychoanalysis at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, told *The Jerusalem Post*, which revealed the historical irony under the front-page headline "Freud's birthplace offers another kind of therapy".

According to the paper, the owner, Josef Matula, is blocking attempts by the town

council in Pribor, northeastern Moravia, to create the museum. Pribor was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time of the psychoanalyst's birth in 1856.

"We want to restore the building to what it looked like when the Freuds lived there," said Jan Monsport, the Deputy Mayor.

Since the collapse of communism, thousands of dubious "massage parlours" — most of which are, in fact, brothels — have sprung up all over the Czech Republic.

There are already museums devoted to Freud in Vienna, where he spent most of his life, and in his former home in London, where he fled with his family in 1938 after the Nazi takeover of Austria and later died of cancer.

Koreans make long march to freedom across China

By Jonathan Mirsky in Hong Kong and Our Foreign Staff

TWO more North Korean defectors have arrived in Hong Kong after walking 2,000 miles through China, bringing the total reported to 19 over the past week.

Yu Bong Nam and Chon Hak Chol were identified by Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, as a security and an intelligence agent respectively. Mr Yu spied on students from North Korea while stationed in Peking.

In a newspaper interview Mr Chon described himself as an agent of the ruling Communist Party's international department for overseas intelligence activities, and gave details of the intelligence war North and South Korea are waging on Chinese soil.

He fled to Hong Kong in November, said his department conducted activities aimed at disrupting South Korean intelligence work in China.

"My department was engaged in kidnapping South Korean visitors, disrupting the business of Southern entrepreneurs or intimidating their agents," he said.

Mr Chon said he decided to seek asylum in the South because he had failed a recent mission to track down the son of a senior North Korean official who had gone missing in China.

Last Thursday 17 North Koreans from a single family were reported to have arrived in Hong Kong after the same cross-China trip. They will probably fly to Seoul now.

According to Yonhap, 35 North Koreans have fled to Hong Kong since 1993. Except for the 19 now here, all live carried on to South Korea.

In making their arduous journey across China, such refugees are believed to be making use of the substantial numbers of Koreans who live in the north of the country for centuries.

BRITAIN NEEDS EUROPE: EUROPE NEEDS BRITAIN

John Aukland Aldrey, Jill Aldred, Jack Ainslie, Brian W Aldhas, Philip Allott, Professor Alan Allport, Iain John Andrews, Anglo Irish Consult Ltd, Peter Anson, David G Appleton, Clare Armstrong, Derek Armstrong, Peter Arthur, Sir Harold & Lady Ardley, Brian H Atkins, David & Romita Atkinson, G Baker, Richard Bellamy, Lord & Lady Banks, Ivo Charles Banks, Mrs J Banks, Jeremy Barker, G W Barnes, W M Barrill, David Bartlett, R D Barton, Edward M Batley, Keith L Batten, Harry Baum MBE, Henry J Beard, Roland Bevington, Clr June Bevan, Mrs Bevan, Clr M Bevan, Clr Mrs Margaret Ann Bevan, Joan Belcher, Dr R E Bell, J M Bernard, Martin D Bessford, Eric & Julie Beverly, Mrs Daisy Bickley, Nigel G Bird, Terence Bishop, Michael Black, Dr R B Black-James, Mr John Blacklocks, Gerry Blanchard, Mr J Bolton, Peter Bolton, Barbara Bolton, Douglas Bolton, Mr E M Bow, Roy John Bowcock, John Bowler, John Bradburner, David Dunlop Conway Braune, Professor Irene Brennan, Nigel Britton, Roger Brown, Professor Maurice Bruehl, A Bruckelstein, John Bruckner, J R Brooke, C R Brown, Bernard Burt QC, Meg Burt MBE, Ken & Elsa Bulmer, Richard H Burnett-Hall, Mary Butterworth, Brian Cairnes, John Cairns, Jennifer Camarero, John Campbell, Professor Catherine Cane, Laurence Carnichael, B C S Carpenter, Ian Carruthers, Mr W G Carson, Tammy Casterline, Clr Nick Cattermole, Miss Marjorie Cawser, R T & D Chapman, Karen Chaitman, J R Chester, Jenny Clarke, Sir Michael Clapham KBE, A H Colman, John & Jean Colker, John Collins, Mrs Betty Colls, Mollie Compagnon, Mr H K Compton, B W Wyn Cooper, Robert Copping, Peter Wood Carterell, Ruediger Conrad, J Crawford, R N Cross, D H Crunk, K R Crunk CMC, Stanley Crutchfield, Colin Crouch, Mrs Genevieve Crutchfield, H P Crutwell, W H O'Carry, Marcelle D'Agay Smith, Christian Darbono, Andrew Dault, Kevin Dale, Daniel Del Sals, J A Dennis, John Derrall, Patrick Dault, Simon Darbono, Christian Davies, Dr Hywel Davies, Margaret Davies, Philip Richard Davies, W Harry Davis-Pearce, Professor John A Davis MBE, Mrs P M Davis, G Anthony Dawson, Clr Mole Beer, M Dean, Michael Dewick, Ian Deyfeshure, Francis Deutsch, Margaret Douglas, A H Dwyer, Miss I Dwyer, Dore Jean Dwyer, Erika Dwyer, Derek Dobby, Joan Dobby, Mike Duggan, M J Duggan, Stuart Drummond, Elizabeth Dwyer, the Lord Dunsany, Clr F Durrant, Clr Guy East, Peter Easton, Hilary Ellis, Eric C Esholt, Duncan Ewart, Mrs Irene Evans, F W Eversill, Graham Ficks-Martin, Professor J D Fage, Mrs Jean F Farmonod, Inran Fazel, Moe Fom, Sir John Figgess, Christopher Finch, Marion C Finch, H J L Fin, Professor Isobach Flint, D J Hiskott OBE, Elizabeth Foss-Smith, David Foster, R B Frank, Muriel J J Franz, Geoffrey Probert, Dr H T Fry, Jonathan Fryer, Lawrence Fulkick, Edward C Funnell, Thornton Garton, G J Garbett, A H Gardner, B Garran, Richard Garton, Ian Gascoigne, Mr Peter Gellman, Nigel Gillin, Rosalind Gill, Philip Goldenberg, Bob Goldring, D Audrey Grant, Professor Howard Goodall, D L N Goodall CBE, E Goodman, Mrs G M W Goodson, David Goodwin, Professor Rose Gorman, Clr C G Green, Ben Gray, Sir John & Lady Gray, D C Green, Karin M Greenhill, Mr R A Griffin, Mrs Wyn Gristonnet, Michael Gritt, Paul Gillman, Spencer Hagard, Clr L H Hall, Timothy Hall, J Murdoch Hall, Norman Hamilton, E L Hamilton, Norman Hampson, D F Hampson, Brian Hares, Isadore Hare, Michael Hare, Sir Timothy & Lady Harford, Norman Harcourt, Brian Harris, John Harris, Leslie Gordon Harris, R D Harrison, Mr M Hart, Donald Leslie Hassett, Barbara Hawkins, Jane Howell, L T P Howland, G E & J Broad, Stephen Heist, Mr J P Heath, David Healey, Frank & Kim Healey, Mr D O Heenan, J Hemmingsway, S C Hemmingsway, Patrick Higham, W A Higgett, Clr Anthony Hill, Roland Hinchmarsh, Mr A D Hootley, Mrs L J Hootley, Peter Holburn, Richard Hoggart, John & Moin Hollibaugh, Bernard & Sylvia Holmes, David Hooper, Mrs Margaret Hurley, Jay Jay Hughes, Marguerite Horngan, Gareth Horswell, Helen Horswell, J E Hosking, Alan G Hughes, Fred Hummel, David Hunter, Peter Humphries, John W Hutton OBE, G A Hutton, R M Innes, G H Inghs, B T Ireland, Christopher Jackson, David Jackson, Mr E M Jacobs, Mrs S Jacobs, Philip C James, John V M Jameson, David Jeffcock, K D Jenkins, Peter B Johnson, Peter Johnson, Sally Jo Johnson, Janet Johnston, Mrs Gillian Jones, Sir Hugh Jones, Mr Melville T Jones, Michael Jones, Mr T L Jones, Peter Jones, Gerald Junginger, Carsten Junginger, Professor Michael Kaser BSc, Mrs M Kilroy, R Kempshall, Mrs E A Kennell, N & S Kerigan, Mrs J Kilg, L J P Kilford, G Kemp, Dr Alexander King CBE, Clr Keir Kison, Dayer Knight, Stephen Knight, Clr Dr H B Lamb, Mrs Jean Lamb, J H Lamb, Dr C L Lawson, W K R Laysell, Christopher Legon, D M Leath-Hunter, E David Le Creu, Betty & Michael Lee, John Lewis, Keith Legge, Karl A Lawson, Mr Michael Leverett, H E Levy, H Lewent, Richard G Lewis, Mr & Mrs J R Ley, Simon Leyland, Clr D Lindley, David Lindsay, Billy Lenahan, Mrs E Lloyd-Jones, D A Logan, Dr P John Long CVO, C Lannon, C R Longman, Muriel MacIntyre, Mrs N L MacKenzie, Kenneth D Madden, Roy Mantley, Frances Maule, Mr Denis Edward Margrett, Raymond Marks MCM, Mr B A V Marlow, Pauline Marriott, M Q Marshall, Nigel Martin, Bill & Sandra Martin, J Mason, John Maxwell, Alan & Mrs S Matheson, Peter J Maughan, Clr May, Martin Maycock, Dr Max Mayer, Mr & Mrs Mayer, P A McArthur, Clr Patrick McCausland, Douglas R McCarthine, D J McCarthine, Christopher McGilvray, Mark McKeown, Ian McLaren, James A McLean, Larry McLennan, Dennis G McManus, The Revd A J Metters, P V Meyer, S R Mielnowski, H W Mielnowski, G C Miller, D C Miller, Mrs S Miller, W J Milligan, C J Millon, S M Milne, Mr D R Millon, Tim Mitchell.

Britain is one of the great nations of Europe. Geographically, economically, politically, it is in Europe that our destiny lies. Our future wealth and influence turn upon our role as a central player in Europe, shaping common policies from within. Britain gains enormously from membership of the European Union. The future shape and policies of the EU are vital to us as a country. Building institutions which promote prosperity and peace is the urgent challenge of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) now under way. We must approach that challenge with confidence and daring. At present, the official British attitude to the IGC is too cautious and dogmatic. The Government seems immobilised by fears of what Douglas Hurd once called "shadows on the wall". We are in danger of painting ourselves into a corner and achieving very little, for Britain and for Europe as a whole. That is why the European Movement — an all-party group which campaigns for a strong Britain in a strong Europe — today sets out the basic principles which should guide Britain in its approach to the IGC. We have sent them to the Prime Minister and we urge him to follow them. Committed to Britain successfully finding its place at the heart of Europe, we the undersigned believe that: • Britain must take a committed, positive approach to the European Union, which constitutes the best available means to advance British power and influence in the world; • the Government's advocacy of a "multi-speed Europe" which has now led to Franco-German proposals to establish an inner-core, from which we would in effect exclude ourselves, places Britain's participation at the heart of Europe under serious threat; therefore • the British Government should work constructively with our partners within the EU to ensure an agreed outcome to the IGC, rather than assume that a veto is a credible or cost-free option; • the Government risks boxing itself into a non-negotiable position in the current IGC. The UK can only secure its negotiating objectives by approaching this discussion with room for manoeuvre; • under no circumstances should the Government rule out participation in a single European currency, now or in the future; • the Government should accept limited extensions of qualified majority voting in any field where it might serve British interests — a principle accepted by the Foreign Secretary in February — provided it is matched by a reweighting of votes in the Council of Ministers to better reflect population; • unanimity should continue to be the rule in at least treaty reform, enlargement, tax harmonisation, own resources, and aspects of foreign policy and justice and home affairs — a position broadly accepted by most other EU states; • the Government's advocacy of the creation of a Secretary General and central planning unit for CFSP (Common Foreign and Security Policy) — as well as of WEU (Western European Union) summits, to be held back-to-back with European Councils — should be welcomed; • the Government should resist the temptation to attack or dismember the European Court of Justice, whose continued authority is essential to the operation of the Single Market and to the guarantee of citizens' rights established in EU law; • the renewed emphasis by the British and French governments on the closer involvement of national parliaments in EU decision-making is a positive development which needs to be given substance; • the twenty or more different methods of involving the European Parliament in legislation at the moment urgently need to be rationalised and reduced, so that the EP can play an improved role in decision-making; • a much greater degree of openness is needed in European decision-making generally, particularly at the Council of Ministers.

Sir Lawrence Airey KCB, Donald Anderson MP, Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP, Mr Simon Barrow, Hugh Bayley MP, Rt Hon Alan Beith MP, Air Vice Marshall D N K Blair-Oliphant, Professor Vernon Bogdanor, Dale Campbell Savours MP, Sir Bryan Cartledge KCMG, Sir Geoffrey Chandler, Lord Clinton-Davis, Lord Cobbold, James Couchman MP, Mr J Cox CBE, Peter Crampton MEP, Mrs Edwina Currie MP, Quentin Davies MP, Sir Roy Denman, Hugh Dykes MP, Rt Hon Tim Eggar MP, Dr Winifred Ewing MEP, Sir Russell Fairgrieve, Andrew Faulds MP, Don Foster MP, Sam Galbraith MP, Mike Gapes MP, Rt Hon Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar, Sir Anthony Grant MP, Lady Greengross, Clr Mike Hancock CBE, Professor Stephen Haseler, Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Rt Hon Roy Hattersley MP, Jerry Hayes MP, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Mark Hendrick MEP, Sir Robert Hicks MP, Keith Hill MP, Lord Hooson QC, Lord Howe of Aberavon CH QC, Sir Ralph Howell MP, Lord Howell, Lord Howe of Troon, Sir John Hunt MP, Rt Hon Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Christopher Johnson, Sir Russell Johnston MP, Ieuan Wyn Jones MP, Mr Bill Jordan, Charles Kennedy MP, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Sir David Knox MP, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Sir Jim Lester DL MP, Rt Hon Dr J Dickson Mabon, Calum MacDonald MP, John MacDonald QC, Denis MacShane MP, Sir Donald Maitland, Professor David Marquand, David Martin MEP, Lord McNally, Sir Jeremy Morse, The Rt Hon Sir Michael Palliser CMG, Mr John Pinder OBE, Lord Plumb MEP, The Lord Poole, Giles Radice MP, Mr John Raisman CBE, Stuart Randall MP, Lord Richard, Earl Russell, Brian Sedgemoor MP, Sir Patrick Sheehy, Barry Sheerman MP, Peter Temple-Morris MP, Patrick Thompson MP, The Lord Thomson of Monifieth, John Home Robertson MP, Sir Clive Rose, The Rt Hon. Jeremy Thorpe, Gary Tully MEP, John Tomlinson MEP, Carole Tongue MEP, Cyril D Townsend MP, Lord Tugendhat, Paul Tyler MP, Lord Wallace, Mr Graham Watson MEP, Michael Welsh, Ian White MEP, Rt Hon Baroness Williams of Crosby, Stephen Woodard

Professor Eric Mowman OBE, Michael Moore, Mrs Sheila J Moore, Peter Murray, Mr R F Murray, Professor Roger Morgan, Hubert Morgan, Mr F R B Mrs H R Murray, David Murray, A P O'Moore, Catherine O'Moore, Jean & Alan O'Moore, Q C O'Moore, Miss Pamela M O'Moore, R H O'Moore, John S O'Moore, A P O'Moore, Allen O'Moore, J S O'Moore, S A O'Moore, W J O'Moore, Dick O'Neil, Susan & Trevor O'Neil, B O'Neil, E J O'Neil, M O'Neil, Mrs O'Neil, Clr John Oliver, Arthur O'Connor, Ms Pat O'Connell, F R O'Connell, R O'Connell, Robert O'Connell, Robert O'Connell, Dr F Papadopoulos, Donald E Parish, Andrew G D Parish, Chris Parker, Imogen Parry, Michael Parry, John Parry, Jonathan Peel, John Peck, Malcolm C Pennington, George, Lytne W Perrett, Mr R N Perrett, Mervyn Phillips, David Phillips, Nicky Pignatelli, Trevor Pollard, John Pomran, J W Porteous, AW Porter, Dr A Patel, J R Patel, Marie Prousev, W D Pywell, Dora Prag, Derek Prag, Sally Prentice, Francis N Press, John C Price, Peter Price, James D Prieisman, Professor & Mrs David Pritchard, Michael E Pritchard, Vanessa Pritchard, Edward Pursell, Mr J H Quainer, Roy Quinlan, John C Randal, R J Ratnay, Pelham Ravenscroft, Mrs Judith Rawson, David W Raymond, Robert Redpath, Victoria Reeves, Bernard J Remmel, Alan Reynolds, Gillian Reynolds, L B Reynolds, Professor P A Reynolds, Ian Richards, K C Richmond PCMA, ENSD, MWA, Michael Rider, Mr Louis Ricker, Ian Ritchie FCS AEB, John M Ritson, Mrs E M Roberts, Mr A A Robertson, E J Robertson, Mrs J P Roche, Clr David Rogers, J E Roper, Peter & Marie Roper, Dr Geoffrey Roper, Michael Rowe, Marguerite Rowland, Eileen Rowland, Judith Ryan, Mr T D Salomon, Paul Sanders, Neville Sandelson, Robin Saville, Stephen Savva, Mr Mrs T M H Scott, Lady Scott-Hopkins CBE, Paul J Sedgley-Harman, Madam Sedgman, Anne Serrallier, Christopher Seton-Watson, Dr Michael Shackleton, Jennifer Sharratt, W F Sheldon, Anthony D Sheridan, Alec G Shipley, Clr John Shipley OBE, Derek Shreeve, James E Siddley, G Stn, Anthony Simpson, Muriel Simpson, Mrs C S Slight, Richard E J Slighting, R J Slight, James Slight, Dr Mark Slight, Arthur F C Sleigh, L M Smith, Mrs Deirdre J Smith, L Eunice Smith, Dr Mary Smith, Mr P F Smith, Professor Ernst Sponheimer, Roland M Soward, S H Stacey, Barbara K Stanger, Donald Stark, Miriam Steed, Lady Stevens, Anthony Starr, Peter Starvo, Keith Stride, Derek Stroud, Joyce Struthers, Malcolm Struthers, Emma Stuart-Murray, Andrew Sturgis, Gabrielle Sutt, Florence Summerskill, Mr G Sutherland, Bernard Sweet, Mrs Susie Sykes, Dr Z C Szabolcs, Mr G H Talbot W Tazewell, David H Talbot OBE, Mrs Christine Taylor, David Taylor, Jack Taylor, Victor Taylor, Mrs Joyce Thomas, Peter Thomas, Monica Thomas, Robert Thomas, Thiruvud, Dr Stella L Thiruvud, David Thiruvud, Erik M Thiruvud, Robert Thiruvud, Peter Thomas, K M & D P Thiruvud, Alan Thiruvud, Brian Thiruvud, Daniel Trapp, C M Thull, Roland Turkel, Susan Turnbull, Dr G S & Mrs L G W Turner, Mr & Mrs L T Turner, Susan Vaux, Miss Martin Vaux, Lord Verdon, David Vigar, Mark Vinnall, Philip Virgo, Mr W White, Sir Harold Walker, Dr James Walsh, Mary Ware, B A Ward, Mrs Pamela Ward, Clr Julian Ward, Clr J A Wainwright, G Watson, Robert Watson, Joshua Watts, Anneliese Waugh, Professor R A Weale, Norman & Joan Webster, Professor George Weir, Richard Wernick, R Weisstein, Paul White, Mr Bertrand N Wheeler, E H Whitaker, N M Whitaker, Richard Whitson, Chris White, Mrs B A White, J C A Whitworth, Edna Whitworth, Graham J T Wilson, Peter J B Macfar Williams, Mr Gwyn P Williams, Gwyn Williams, J T Wilson, Peter Wilson, Simon Wilson, W Wilson, Anne Wilson, Michael D Wippell, Alan Wisbey, G D Woodward, Mr R Woodward, Mr M G Wrayley, Brian L Worth, Dr Kenneth Wright CBE, Walter Wright, A L Wyers, Adrian Wykes, Mr N B Yeardon, Hugh William Young, Vitis Zetina

We believe that this or any future British government should negotiate in the current IGC with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the House of Commons for any deal, rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party, as during ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. A new treaty package negotiated along the lines set out in this declaration could and would command a large majority in the House of Commons, and should be a priority for this and any future British government.

Advertisement for 'Cell' mobile phones, featuring a large image of a mobile phone and text including 'Cell', 'CRACKING...', 'SIEMENS', 'SPECIAL FILE FREE!', 'FREEPHONE', and 'European Movement United Kingdom'.

EU's unexploded bombs leave Major dreading Dublin

When he first began summitting in Europe six years ago this month, John Major looked forward to EU meetings. He was popular with his opposite numbers because he wasn't Margaret Thatcher, his handful of Euro-sceptic MPs were just epic bores with no political future, and his calm, dogged negotiating style worked well.

Nowadays fear and loathing lurk behind the Prime Minister's performance. He dreads the summit that can spell nothing but trouble inside his party and Cabinet. Whitehall sherpas who cho-



graph those like the one in Dublin next weekend have been trained to defuse whatever might later explode at Westminster. Despite the fuss

generated by anything that Helmut Kohl and President Chirac say in Nuremberg today, the Government's fragility will protect Mr Major at Dublin. The EU club runs on an unwritten rule that it never does anything to topple a member Government.

For Downing Street, a "good" EU encounter is now defined as one at which only minor things go wrong. Attempts to make things go "our way" in the EU have stopped. The Whitehall machinery still grinds on to produce a position for the relevant minister on cor-

EU issues, the Government is brain-dead.

The paralysis extends far beyond the single currency. Policy choices, laid out by Whitehall officials, sit idle in the system, stuck either by the deadlock inside the Cabinet or by the fear of provoking rebellion in the Commons. Take EU "flexibility". The conference revising the Maastricht treaty is tiptoeing gingerly round this opaque-titled item, which boils down to a Franco-German plan to organise a hard core of federalist countries without needing the rest of the Union's permission. The idea, in the

mind for years, went down on paper last month. Its potential to reshape the EU is vast.

A British counter-proposal that new cliques in the EU should be "open to all and agreed by all" was worked out about a year ago. Some officials believed ministers would be advised to put ideas on the table before Paris and Bonn set the agenda.

But the paperwork ground to a halt once it reached Cabinet ministers. Some thought Britain was better placed to wait. Others saw advantages, or spotted snags. The Cabinet's

main European committee met before the summer and again last month and made no real decision. The whole Cabinet chewed the idea for the first time three weeks ago and didn't decide much. So far the only statement of policy has been a fleeting mention of Britain's approach in a Malcolm Rifkind speech.

This reluctance to engage in any kind of European discussion spreads beyond Conservative ministers. Have Labour's policy wonks been worrying about flexibility in case they face a negotiating crisis over "Maastricht II" in their first few weeks in gov-

ernment? They have not. Their last published words on the subject go back to September 1995 and indicate a vague dislike for the idea.

Putting off until tomorrow what might be better done today is a habit. The recent fracas over the parliamentary scrutiny of the EU laws on the single currency blew up because government whips want to avoid any kind of Commons vote over Europe at all costs. There will be a debate this week, but no vote.

The Commons vote can be delayed on the technicality

that this clutch of regulations — thanks to German insistence that they be treated as a package — may not formally be made EU law until next summer.

Yet last week European finance ministers agreed on the rules regarding the euro's legal status: the text awaits only a rubber stamp to make it law. There is no reason for MPs not to vote on it other than that the Government does not want such a thing to occur. This kind of chicanery is legal, but that does not make it honest.

GEORGE BROCK

Kohl and Chirac try to paper over cracks in run-up to summit



Simitis: ruled out talks

Fear of food shortages amid Greek blockade

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

THE threat of food shortages loomed over Athens and other large cities as a farmers' blockade of Greece's main roads entered its second week. Thousands of tractors have paralysed transport at more than 30 road and rail junctions around the country as farmers demand higher prices for their produce and a re-scheduling of the equivalent of £300 million in farm debts. Farmers have vowed to keep the roads blocked until the Government caves in. Costas Simitis, the Socialist Prime Minister, is adamant that his Government cannot spare any funds from the 1997 austerity budget to ease the farmers' income squeeze. He has called their demands "excessive" and refuses to negotiate unless the farmers halt what he calls their "blackmail tactics".

GERMANY and France will today draw a diaphanous veil over their many bitterly fought differences and launch a joint initiative intended to ginger up the European Union before next week's Dublin summit.

The broad contours of an open letter, to be issued after talks in Nuremberg between President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, started to emerge last night. According to diplomats, the two leaders will call for a stability council to co-ordinate economic policies on growth to complement the goals of monetary discipline.

The name is a useful one since it distracts attention from the fact that France and Germany are still failing to agree on the future shape of the stability pact, the agreement which will keep members of economic and monetary union (EMU) in harness even after the start-up date. Officials say terms of the pact are 98 per cent agreed, but plainly the remaining 2 per cent is causing so much trouble that a deal seems unlikely before the summit. The Kohl-Chirac letter will focus on the need for a more closely integrated European foreign and defence policy, and two headline-grabbing

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

aspects have been worked out by diplomatic sherpas who prepare such summits. The first concerns the development of a European armaments agency. There has been tension for many months between France and Germany as Bonn strives to cut back its defence spending and France, without consultation, launched the idea of a big military reform.

Co-operating on defence projects, from the Tiger helicopter to the FLA (future large aircraft) transporter, is a useful signal not only that Paris and Bonn are again on the same track in military affairs but also an indicator that they are sensitive to the needs of other EU states. Britain, for example, is interested in participating in the FLA and in being an active member of the

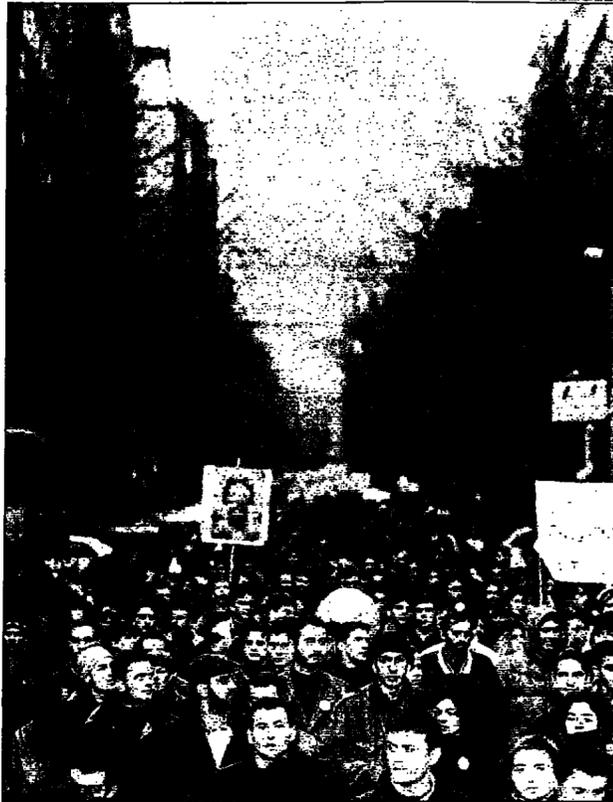
European defence agency. It was unclear last night, however, whether the Helios 2 Franco-German spy satellite would emerge unscathed. The French are keen to develop a European high-tech intelligence-gathering satellite to scan crisis zones. The German Defence Ministry is happy to obtain this information from America and would prefer to save the money. Herr Kohl, however, has personally promised M Chirac that Helios will go ahead.

The second element of the letter reflects long, wearisome negotiation at the level of foreign ministers. The French want a high-profile figure to represent European foreign policy, a "Mr Europe" who can stand up and speak strongly (preferably in French) to the US Secretary of State. The Germans are less than enthusiastic about the idea. A compromise has been reached between "Mr Europe" and the minimalist German version, dubbed "Mr Nobody".

The letter will also put forward ideas for co-operating more closely in fighting organised crime, drug smuggling and terrorism. This has become a hot issue again since the Paris bomb last week.

Bonn: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Nato should offer Russia a seat on a permanent consultation body for European security, with equal rights to Nato members, and Germany would insist that Moscow's interests be considered by the alliance. The committee would consider issues such as disarmament. (Reuter)

Leading article, page 21



Opposition demonstrators march through the streets of Belgrade yesterday

Unions in threat to Milosevic

BY MICHAEL DYNES

SERBIAN opposition parties braced themselves for a renewed government clamp-down yesterday after the supreme court dismissed allegations that President Milosevic had rigged last month's local elections.

Opposition groups vowed to intensify their three-week campaign of mass street demonstrations and trade union leaders threatened to join them. Although individual workers have participated in demonstrations, organised labour has hitherto remained aloof from the protests.

Last night, however, leaders of two independent unions said that they were ready to go on strike if the Government did not reinstate the Opposition's November 17 local election victories.

Half of Serbia's 1.75 million workers are members of independent trade unions. All have been badly hit by unemployment and low incomes, and most have not received wages for months.

An estimated 150,000 turned out for yesterday's protests, including 10,000 students and teachers.

Kinkel adamant: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday insisted that the Bosnian Serb authorities must hand over indicted war criminals, in spite of their earlier refusals. (Reuter)

'Clean' era ends with dawn raid on judge

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

DAWN raids by tax fraud squads on the homes and offices of Antonio Di Pietro, the populist symbol of Italy's anti-corruption drive, were greeted with dismay at the weekend by ordinary Italians and undisguised glee by the many politicians and businessmen he prosecuted.

However, all agreed that the swoop by 250 officers of the Finance Police was a watershed marking the end of the "clean hands" era that brought down the Christian Democrats four years ago and ushered in a new phase of Italian politics and the current centre-left Government.

Signor Di Pietro said yesterday that the charges were a "vulgar lie and a squalid vendetta". Corriere della Sera, based in Milan, where "clean hands" began, said not even the gala opening of the new season at La Scala could compensate Italians for the downfall of their hero, whose wife and children were woken by police.

"Even top Mafia bosses are not treated this way," the paper said. "Raids in the night, neighbours and relatives cross-examined... this is a vendetta."

Signor Di Pietro is revered by many Italians as the Milan magistrate who, by exposing the web of corruption in Italian politics and business life known as Tangentopoli (Bribeville), gave the country a fresh start.

But there have been persistent claims that Signor Di Pietro and other "clean hands" magistrates were as tinged with corruption as their victims. Signor Di Pietro resigned as a magistrate for unexplained reasons in 1994. Last year he became the target of a whispering campaign alleging "abuse of office", inspired, he maintains, by rival magistrates in Brescia on behalf of his powerful enemies.

In March this year a court cleared him of using his powers as a magistrate to favour his friends commercially, and to obtain a low-interest loan to buy a

revised interest rates

NOTICE TO ALL BORROWERS

The Society's standard variable base rate for existing borrowers will be increased to 7.24% from 1st January 1997 or at such other time in accordance with the terms of the mortgage deed.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS REVISED INTEREST RATES EFFECTIVE AT 9th DECEMBER 1996

AMOUNT INVESTED	Gross % (MONTHLY)	Net % (MONTHLY)	Gross % (MONTHLY)	Net % (MONTHLY)
CURRENT ISSUES				
NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT				
£200,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04		
NOVA PLUS/NOVA GROSS ACCOUNTS (INCLUDING CLOSED ISSUES TRANSFERRED ON MATURITY) (NET RATES DO NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS)				
£50,000 - £200,000	3.55	2.84	3.55	2.84
£10,000 - £49,999	3.00	2.40	3.00	2.40
£5,000 - £9,999	2.50	1.81	2.50	1.81
£2,000 - £4,999	2.00	1.60	2.00	1.60
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□ Measuring risk □ Bear prints □ Sniff 'n' tears

Your number's up

Scientists are good at putting a number on anything, but so far they have failed to find a simple measure for the risks of normal life. Is living in Cornwall, where radon levels are high, more dangerous than eating British beef? How do both of these compare with the risks of smoking cigarettes or driving a car? We need a number to express these risks.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

one in every 8,000 people in the UK dies every year in traffic accidents, then the safety index would be the log of 8,000 — that is 3.9.

On this basis, smoking ten cigarettes a day would score 2.3, being struck by lightning 6.3, playing Russian roulette once a year 0.8, and dying from a bee-sting 6.8. *RSS News* suggests that anything under three might be deemed dangerous, and anything over six safe.

This is a good starting point, but not the complete answer. It would need to be adjusted for the number of people involved, and for their age — a long-term

risk that is unacceptable for a 25-year-old might well be seen differently by those over the age of 70 — and it should make allowance for disease and disability as well as death.

One drawback is that dangerous activities score low, and safe ones high, the opposite of the Richter scale. It is a safety rather than a risk index. Professor Paulos's answer to that was simply to subtract his safety index from 10 to produce a rising scale of risk, the more dangerous activities scoring higher. But the *RSS News* doesn't find that very appealing, pointing out that very low risk activities might come out as negative numbers.

Anybody with a better idea should send it to the editor of *RSS News*, Frank Duckworth, at 12 Errol St, London EC1Y 8LX (e-mail rssnews@rss.org.uk). Immortality could await the successful inventor: think of Beaufort and Richter.

The challenge is thrown down in this month's issue of the *Royal Statistical Society's* magazine, *RSS News*, following a call made by the society's president, Adrian Smith, in his presidential address. The journal says that it simply isn't good enough merely to be told that something is "safe" or otherwise. "People need a simple measure of risk which they can use as a basis for decision-making," the journal's editorial says.

Coming up with a Richter scale for risk isn't easy. It must provide a comparison between the risks of purely voluntary activities (smoking, rock climbing) and those that are voluntary but unavoidable (travel, eating different foods, coalmining) while also incorporating risks imposed by society (living near a nuclear power station, or passive smoking) and acts of God such as floods or lightning strikes.

RSS News cites approvingly the work of the mathematician John Allen Paulos of Temple University in Pennsylvania. In his book *Innumeracy* Professor Paulos suggests a simple safety index based on logarithms. If

Putting the finger on the koala



POLICE in Australia have been warned: the fingerprints at the scene of a crime could be those of a koala bear. While handling koalas in the Urimbirra Wildlife Park near Adelaide, Dr Maciej Henneberg of the University of Adelaide noticed that their fingers carry the same kinds of loops, whorls and arches as human fingers. Detailed comparisons with chimpanzee and human prints showed that although chimpanzees are man's closest relation, their fingerprints are less like ours than a koala's are. Nobody else seems to have noticed this, Dr Henneberg found when he consulted the literature.

The main interest is evolutionary rather than forensic. "Marsupials such as the koala split from the lineage of the primates about 80 million years ago" Dr Henneberg told *New Scientist*. "So we have two lineages independently developing the same trait."

He believes that fingerprints originally evolved as a device to aid grip when climbing trees. "Although it's extremely unlikely that koala prints would be found at the scene of a crime, police should at least be aware of the possibility," he says.

When passion turns cold



PEOPLE with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds, a study in Pittsburgh has shown. Sheldon Cohen of Carnegie Mellon University exposed 276 adults to a cold virus, then kept them isolated for five days to see which of them succumbed.

His team reported to a conference in Bethesda, Maryland, last month that the most vulnerable were those with long-term conflicts, either at home or in the office. A single row with a spouse or a bad day at work were not significant, but "enduring social conflicts" did increase the risk. The results confirm earlier work done in Britain showing that the more stressed individuals are, the more likely they are to catch colds.

Worse still is social isolation. In the Pittsburgh study, people with few contacts either at home, at work, or in sporting or social clubs were four times more likely to become ill than those with six or more types of social contact. This result is in line with past research showing that people with lots of friends and contacts live longer than those who are lonely.



The starting hypothesis for the Pitman and Ryan flood theory came from the Bible story of Noah, which many scientists would think outrageous

Proving Noah's Flood

"... I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."

Genesis vii; 11

I started off as a joke. Dr William Ryan and Dr Walter Pitman, two American geologists, were working alongside Dr John Dewey, a British contemporary, in 1971. The three had been discussing the sudden flooding of the Mediterranean five million years ago. Dr Dewey, now Professor of

Anjana Ahuja reports on the two American geologists who believe they have convincing evidence that the biblical flood did take place

Earth Science at Oxford University, said: "I wonder if it was anything like Noah's Flood?" Twenty-five years later, Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan, now distinguished authorities on marine geology at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, New York, think they have found evidence that the biblical flood did take place.

Furthermore, they have speculated that the flood uprooted thousands, triggering a human exodus from the Middle East into Europe many thousands of years ago. Their claims have been met with disbelief, but the geological evidence they have pieced together, which is presented in a *Horizon* documentary next week, is compelling.

Their reasoning starts with the fact that the dramatic biblical story of the Flood, which God visited upon the Earth as punishment for the sins of mankind, has echoes elsewhere. The Epic of Gilgamesh, a Babylonian poem written in the third millennium BC, also features a great flood: "Like a battle-axe, the destructive flood weapon passed over the people. No man could see his fellow, nor could people be distinguished from the sky. Even the gods were afraid of the flood weapon."

The fact that two different accounts appeared in legend led us to wonder if there really was a flood," Dr Ryan says. "If, as the descriptions suggested, it caused whole communities to move, then it was likely that the story of the Flood would be passed down to future generations."

In their spare time, the two scientists began to ponder this fresh challenge. A torrent of biblical proportions required precise geological conditions — a narrow channel through which water could gush once some critical stage was reached. They speculated that the end of an Ice Age would lead sea levels to rise dramatically, and concluded that the most likely site for a catastrophic flow would be a bottle-shaped basin connected to the ocean via a narrow neck.

They found the perfect candidate — the Black Sea. Connected to the Mediterranean by an almost perfect bottleneck, the Bosphorus, there was no question that the Black Sea had been isolated from the Mediterranean during the last Ice Age.

There was one problem. The Black Sea was of strategic importance to the Russians, and was patrolled by the Russian Navy. Instead of collecting their own data, Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan had to



Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan

already been published. They struck lucky — oceanographers had mapped the deepest sections of the Black Sea basin. This survey showed that the Black Sea had been a freshwater lake. "Samples of sediments showed that the water had gone from freshwater to saline about 9,000 years ago, and that this change was very sudden," Dr Pitman says.

Then, out of the blue, a letter from Dr Fedko Dimitrov arrived on Dr Ryan's desk. This Bulgarian oceanographer, who had heard about Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman, claimed to have carried out studies in the Seventies showing that the basin of the Black Sea harboured ancient beaches and an old shoreline. These features could, in theory, have been suddenly washed over by a flood: Dr Ryan could not believe his eyes: "I rushed the letter out to Walter and we read it again and again. We were thrilled."

From examining shells he had found on a deep sea expedition, Dr Dimitrov estimated that the water level had risen by 60 metres. The puzzle was beginning to look solvable.

Dr Pitman contacted friends in Turkey, who furnished him with data showing a groove or channel, between 80 and 100 metres deep, leading from the Bosphorus into the Black Sea. This would be consistent with a fast rush of water.

It was not until 1993, however, that Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman could fulfil their ambition of checking out the Black Sea for themselves. They were invited to join a Russian scientific expedition aboard the *Aquanaut*, which was to monitor radioactivity levels in the sea after the Chernobyl incident.

Never in their wildest dreams did the two scientists think they would stumble upon such perfect evidence for their argument. A seismic profile of the seabed revealed a perfectly uniform layer of sedi-

only have been achieved if the sediment was laid down in one sweep, rather than in gradations.

Sediment cores, or samples, showed a sudden change between dry, weathered mud and soft, misty mud. The muddy mud contained molluscs from the Mediterranean; these interlopers must have been swept from their home into the Black Sea in a huge torrent of water.

More startling was the evidence lying in the dry, pre-flood mud — it contained roots of shrubs and vegetation. It seemed as if the Black Sea basin was once a plain, and may even have been inhabited. The Russian crew held a celebratory barbecue in the middle of the Black Sea for their stummed guests.

Precise carbon-14 dating brought the flood date forward to 7,550 years ago. The two

marine geologists plan to publish their results soon. But is it the real Flood?

Dr Ryan says: "We have convincing evidence that a flood took place in the Black Sea. The evidence that it is the same one in the Bible and in the Epic of Gilgamesh is circumstantial, and that has led to a friendly dispute between us and archaeologists."

However, the date we have come up with was a benchmark for the rapid radiation of people and farming into Europe."

Dr Pitman, though, is unsurprised by the lukewarm reaction from archaeologists: "They probably get lunatics coming in with crazy ideas all the time. And our starting hypothesis came from the Bible and an ancient legend, which would be considered outrageous by many scientists. But the experts we have spoken to are beginning to realise that this may have been an important event in history."

● *Horizon: Noah's Flood, Monday December 16, BBC2, 8pm.*

THE TIMES

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'I like to think we were a class act'

With his serious swinging days behind him *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times. Interview by Giles Whittell



Hefner and playmate Barbara Benton on his DC9 jet

Hugh Hefner, playboy of the Western world, greets his visitors nowadays not with bunny girls but with a talking rock. "Welcome to the mansion," a lump of faux-granite intones from the shrubs beside a huge pair of gates not far off Sunset Boulevard. "Please drive up to the forecourt and leave your keys in the car. You will be met."

the library's oaken ceiling just as they did in her 1989 Playmate of the Year pictorial. Briskly, he swats aside the idea that he was ever a pornographer. "The Playmates have always been rooted in a tradition of American 'good girl' art," he says without a trace of irony. "The pin-up photography of World War Two — the glamour girls, the movie stars, the Betty Grables; that's the origin of the Playmate centrefolds."

Here the catalyst of the century's most famous orgies has granted an interview as part of a daring bid to reinvent himself as one who "helped define the better part of the last half-century". Hefner — no one calls him Mr Hefner — arrives as usual in a crimson smoking jacket and black silk pyjamas. When he did his most serious swinging — passing the thousand-dollar mark, he says — he was lean, dark and in his fifties. Now he is 70. The hair is grey, the voice a bit gurgly after a stroke 11 years ago, the rampaging sex consigned to social history.

And naked. The first issue of *Playboy* in 1953 featured a famous set of photographs of Marilyn Monroe with nothing on "but the radio". It blew off the news stands. For the next 20 years *Playboy* ruled its niche, but by the early 1970s *Penthouse* and *Hustler* had muscled into the market and pundits gleefully declared the outbreak of the "public wars".



Hefner with his wife Kimberly: "We have a lot in common, she's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

over him and he asks if I've seen "the book" — a bumper batch of Hef's favourite Playmates from four decades of soft lighting and cheesy sets, just published in America in tasteful white hardback. "Can anyone seriously, in the real world, believe those images are exploitative?" he asks. "Do the women who have become famous thanks to that appearance in the magazine view it as exploitation? In most cases you'll find they look back on it as a quite remarkable period in their lives."

the same and should behave the same and dress the same is nonsense. It's not politically correct to say so, but the sexes are complementary. They are in no manner, shape or form the same and thank God for that. It's what makes the world go round. That attraction between the sexes is the major civilising force on the planet. All of which would seem to make the *Playboy* Mansion the cradle of civilisation. Please, Hef. Say it ain't so. What was the wildest night of your life? He sinks back into the sofa and guffaws. It must be hard, casting back over 30 years as a self-styled symbol of sexual revolution and liberated bachelorhood, to single out one moment of particular excess; harder still considering the first ten were spent in Chicago in a mansion even vaster than the present one, with parties every night and a "harem" of 24 young women for tenants. But he manages.

Elsewhere on his five-and-a-half acres Hefner maintains 30 squirrel monkeys, an aviary of parakeets and a games room with wall-to-wall pinball machines and a foam-floored, mirror-ceiling decorated sex slave (now used chiefly by Kimberly to watch TV with friends). But the groto is the highlight of any tour. If orgies are your thing, this must be a fun place for them. The pool flows into one cave and, over dimly-lit shallows, into another. Between them a hot tub bubbles in the style of a mineral spring. Lighting, water jets and something labelled "Your Pleasure" are controlled from a panel near the entrance. With sex toys like this, weren't there times when Hef lost his grasp of what was real? On the contrary, he says. "Fantasy and reality did blur, but largely in the minds of other people. You don't fly the world in a private jet painted black with a rabbit on the tail, and sleep in a rotating, vibrating round bed, and not know what you're doing — or see the humour in it."

Those were the days. In the late 1960s the *Playboy* empire stretched from a wildly profitable casino in London to the front line in Vietnam, where the magazine arrived by air-drop. With *Playboy* selling more than seven million copies a month, Hefner's net worth was put at over \$200 million. So he travelled in the world's biggest executive jet, a customised, stretched DC-9.

Circulation has since fallen to around three million. The casino has long since been closed down and the jet sold off to a Mexican airline. Hef still drives around LA in a bulletproof Mercedes limo with escort cars in front and behind, but when he flies he buys a ticket. Guccione and Larry Flynt, the publisher of *Hustler*, are the ones behind the scandals nowadays. Next to them, Hefner is a pillar of propriety. A "Children at Play" sign in the driveway reminds you he is the devoted father of two young sons, Marston, 6, and Cooper, 5. He likes to be mentioned for his lectures on censorship at the University of Southern California, and wants his life to be seen as a grand metaphor for his times — from the rigid taboos of his Midwestern upbringing (which fired his fantasies) to the unbridled hedonism of the *Playboy* Mansion in the 1980s (which fired ours). Indeed, the noted feminist Camille Paglia has emerged as a staunch Hefner fan, calling him: "one of the principal architects of the social revolution".

He is also, at last, monogamous. "Kimberly and I have a lot in common," he explains, dead-pan. "She's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

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The essential guide to survival

From the simple joys of jelly and Smarties to the final geriatric fling, Joe Joseph on the seven ages of party man

With the Christmas and new year party season upon us, those of us who relish a good time, the sort of evening where we can really let our hair down among close friends, suddenly find ourselves pulling out our social diaries and feverishly filling in all those blank spaces with appointments and rendezvous.

This way, when each new party invitation arrives, we can flamboyantly rifle through our diary and confirm that — very sadly — we cannot actually attend any gathering on that particular evening because it seems we are expecting the returner from Channel 5. "See? It's written right here. Tuesday? Sorry, that's Hoovering night." (Obviously, there are certain people who ache to be invited to almost anything, and it might be amusing to draw up a list of who they are. Perhaps amusing is too strong a word. Maybe depressing captures it better.)

So now we are free to telephone our close friends, invite them over to share an Indian takeaway and cold beer, and catch up on the latest intimate gossip about mutual acquaintances, which is something you feel you just can't do at a party full of strangers, because the music is too loud to hear properly.

Also, people at parties are preoccupied with other things: for instance, you often see them dashing around eyeing up all the guests, desperate to establish whether, by some Koestleresque fluke, they might actually be at the one thrush of the year not being attended by either Marie Helvin or Yasmin le Bon.

But not everyone feels this way. And even those who do, do not feel this way all the time. Moods change with age. As Shakespeare noticed in *As You Like It*: "All the world's a party. And all the men and women merely partygoers: They have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time attends many parties, his attendances being divided into seven ages."

These, then, are the seven ages of party man.

"At first the infant, mewling and puking". Probably the last time in a partygoer's life when the "mewling and puking" will not have been brought on by too much liquor. Adults try to enjoy the best days of their lives. But children never believe them, because children have not yet understood that this is the last time in their lives that they will feel happy and then throw up — for no more than the cost of a tube of Smarties, a bowl of Hula-Hoops and three slabs of heavily-iced chocolate cake.

At this age, boys at parties fantasise about not getting scolded for coming home with chocolate-spread smeared all over their legs — not yet aware that what is called "a mess" when spattered on a five-year-old's legs is called "erotic chocolate body paint" when



Thirtysomethings at play: at the fourth age of partygoing, we are unlikely to find ourselves at the wilder bashes — but everyone can fantasise about being young, sexy and single.

rubbed by randy adults on each other. "And then the whining schoolboy". Young men reach their sexual peak in their teens. This is also the age at which they are at their keenest to go to parties. There may be some connection. How can you tell they are keen? Because they spend seven hours preparing for the outing. Contrast this with the thirtysomething's concept of "making an effort", which consists of trying their best not to break wind in public, at least not next to the buffet table.

This is the age when the male partygoer fantasises that his mates will mistake his long absence from the dancefloor — when he was in the upstairs lavatory, throwing up on cider — as evidence that he had finally managed to persuade Daisy to go the whole hog, under the coat pile.

"Then the lover, sighing like furnace". Men and women in their late teens and early twenties are usually willing partygoers, because at this age Nature steps in. They are driven by their body's basic biological imperative to rush out as often as possible to other people's parties because this kind of social interaction dramatically increases their chances of holding something more exciting than biscuits dipped in taramasalata that's past its sell-by date. The target of male fantasies during this phase of their partying life is, for some bizarre arithmetical reason, the woman with whom they have the most improbable chance of success. It's one of God's weirder forms of contraception.



The final age... and it is party time once again

"Then a soldier, full of strange oaths". As they enter their thirties, men and women become foot soldiers in some giant corporate army, spending their days tapping away at computer keyboards, and their partygoing enters a new phase. Having found a mate, they go only to parties of dear friends or family. This is the age-group of your life when you spend all Saturday flicking through your shelf of cookery books looking for a recipe which is enticing, doesn't require star anise, and also takes less than 20 minutes to prepare. At 5.30pm you again decide to cook the same



The first age... and the last time partygoers will be able to have simple, unselfconscious fun

more usually the by-product of other activities: the cricket club summer ball, the rugby club dinner-dance, the Masonic ladies' night, the school parents' fundraising cheese-and-wine (with raffle: first prize — a jeroboam of Moët; second prize — two tickets for any Odeon cinema; third prize — two hours of private piano tuition with Miss Buckram, the junior music teacher). The other prominent diary entry is the Christmas office party, which is less promising than it was 20 years ago because (a) you are 20 years older; (b) your boss is 20 years older; (c) the woman you got frisky with at office parties 20 years ago now is your boss. Partygoers in their forties don't fantasise as much they used to. Those that still do, fantasise about winning third prize in the cheese-and-wine raffle.

"The sixth age slips into the lean and slippered pantaloons". Entering their fifties and sixties, people attend each other's wedding anniversaries, golf club dinners, and retirement or redundancy bashes. They don't party *chez nous* so much as *en masse*, on Caribbean cruises, because they have fallen out with their children and want to squander all their cash before they shuffle off. Men in their late fifties and beyond no longer wonder what it might have been like if they had married one of their female friends rather than the wife they chose, because their minds are now preoccupied with fantasising about their female friends' daughters.

"Last scene of all... Is second childishness... Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". In their seventies and eighties, people like to party once again because, as Shakespeare pointed out, they have reached a second childishness. Often they are too frail to travel alone, so have to be ferried to and from parties as they were when they were five. They often eat as messily, too. They bounce like yo-yos not because they are playing a party game, but because they are showing off their new metal hip joint. Attendance at parties becomes a parade of honour of life's survivors. Men in their eighties might look as if they lack the will, but they still have strong sexual passions: like Woody Allen, they fantasise that when they do eventually die they will be reincarnated as Warren Beatty's fingertips.

SHYNESS

It's everywhere. In the media, on the high street, at work and at home, nowhere on the globe, it seems, is there an oasis where people are not bracing themselves for the onset of the party season. Hard to imagine that the cheerful prospect of several weeks' worth of strong drink and vigorous social interaction could strike dread into anyone's heart. But for a significant — and increasing — minority, the prospect of Christmas socialising is not a pleasure, but a very real ordeal.

Research has shown that at least 40 per cent of us suffer from chronic shyness, a "self-imposed prison of silence in solitary confinement", as Dr Philip Zimbardo, a shyness specialist, describes it, severe enough to interfere significantly with our private and working lives.

Very shy people can take a lifetime to recognise and control their symptoms, but according to Dr Lynne Henderson, one of America's foremost shyness experts, shyness is more likely to be learnt or fostered on us than inbred. The key to beating it is therefore to unlearn it.

Fifteen years ago, Dr Henderson set up the world's first shyness clinic near California's Stanford University. Every fortnight, shy people wanting tips on being braver turn up at the clinic's free "drop-in" sessions, where they can reclaim the business of being a social animal and learn to deal with the sort of fears that only the most brazen never feel.

Most of us, mercifully, can get over shyness even if we are born with it. The Shyness Clinic wants to help the large minority of the human race who aren't so lucky. Dr Henderson's central idea is simple: social fitness, like physical fitness, needs to be worked at.

"Few people turn into world-class athletes," she says. "In the same way, few people feel totally comfortable in every social setting, but everyone can connect with others in ways that are both emotionally satisfying and productive."

Some just need prodding. For them, Henderson has devised what she calls a social fitness model which is the basis of her clinic's treatment. The model is a set of goals ranging from relearning basic conversational skills to handling criticism, expressing emotions and "learning to say no". Most of the work is done in small groups at the clinic, but there is also "homework", often consisting of telephone calls that clients challenge themselves to make — to friends, colleagues, or fellow "shys".

Some go further. One was so convinced of his need to smile more often that he took himself off to Stanford Shopping Centre and went home only after smiling at 1,000 people. "It can seem contrived," says one expert, "but it works. It's really thrilling, like seeing someone being reborn and come alive."

The Shyness Clinic, which has treated clients from as far away as Indonesia, is at 4370 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California 94028. Tel: (415) 415 228 6115.

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in the Christmas party season

THE WAY WE WERE

I am afraid that parties have lost their charm for me. Years ago, I sought them out and there was nearly always someone or other who would be giving some sort of thrash on a Saturday night. St Martin's School of Art and the other loafers in Soho made up a small population who would drop almost anything and go almost anywhere to crack open a bottle and give the night away. It was horribly uncomfortable.

The trunk of the matter is that we would end up sitting on the floor, drinking the final dregs of some plunk out of a teacup, having already run out of cigarettes and then, usually penniless, have to walk all the way home. And there was usually a fight.

Oddly enough, there was more violence of a sort in the Fifties than now. Queensbury Rules stuff, mind you, but it was common practice to settle rows and arguments with fists and that was frequently the low ebb of the evening.

Now they just talk about money and serve only wine

A good party then and in one's youth was a party where you or I met someone wonderful and beautiful who would leave with you, walk out into the dawn with you, and then go to bed with you. Those days are over. For me, anyway.

At 18, or thereabouts, one is easily entertained. Sitting about drinking rubbish to the sound of Dixieland jazz is not appealing and today's parties to be avoided are those given by art galleries for private views and publishers to launch books. Everybody talks about money all the time and most of them serve only wine as though it is the only drink in the world. Even at the classier ones it is a thoughtless assumption to take it that everybody adores champagne.

I fear that it sounds horribly snooty to say so, but I find that as the years go by the best parties are given by those who can simply afford to give them. All the spirits and mixes should be available, plus good beer. A party is not, or should not be, a private wine-tasting. Some of the very best parties are accidental and are borne of good friends simply meeting for a drink. That is sadly rare.

There is, however, one fairly awful party, and it is starting everywhere now — the Christmas office party. I have come



Jeffrey Bernard: a good party was one where one met someone wonderful and beautiful. Those days are over for me

to savour and relish the subordinate office minion taking his or her Dutch courage in both hands to tell the boss tycoon what they really think of them. Bosses should avoid their own shindigs. At one such do at a newspaper office I once counted no fewer than 12 female secretaries crying at the end of the evening. Christmas is the deep end for those who paddle during the rest of the year.

But now that I have lost my confidence, I have lost my

optimism too. The chances of finding Miss Right at a party now that I am 64 and wheelchair-bound are just a little remote, one million-to-one. Parties for me now are noisy gatherings in which at wheelchair-level all I can see is a sea of bums, while people bump into me or trap me against walls in corners. Anyway, Miss Right is usually married to Mr. Right.

JEFFREY BERNARD

SURVIVAL TIPS FROM THE FAMOUS

Jilly Cooper



I LOVE parties, but I'm stuck in the country so I can't go to all that many. I couldn't manage them without a drink in my hand, and it is so much nicer if the people are nice.

The ghastliest thing is to be standing about with nobody to talk to. People often come up and talk to me who I am not interested in at all. I used to be so paranoid and shy that I never went out to parties. I had to learn to be nice to uninteresting people, which I found exhausting even then.

Lady Elizabeth Anson



I AM agonisingly shy at parties. The best solution is to pretend that I am organising the party, even if I'm not. I suffer from shy-blindness, which means that when I get there all the faces go blank. I think a lot of people suffer from it. I feel better if I stride around looking purposeful. I do envy people who aren't shy, but I

sympathise heavily with those who are shy-blind, and always try to talk to them and make them feel part of things.

Michael Winner



I AM extremely shy at parties, so shy in fact, that I go to only a small fraction of the many I am invited to. People often come up and talk to me who I am not interested in at all. I used to be so paranoid and shy that I never went out to parties. I had to learn to be nice to uninteresting people, which I found exhausting even then.

Beryl Bainbridge



I LOVE going to parties but my biggest fear is entering a room on my own. So what I tend to do is grab a drink and have a quick look around to see if I know anyone. If I do, then I stay; if I don't, I pretend that I have forgotten something and sneak out, never to return. I've always been a bit shy about approaching people. I'm going to drink, smoke and eat as much as I can — and then, after Christmas, I shall spend three days in bed eating nothing and drinking only water.

Dame Barbara Cartland



WHEN I was young Christmas parties were such romantic occasions. If you were shy, as I was as a young girl, the men looked after you. They made sure that you had a partner with whom to dance, and you were never left to sit on your own. But I'm afraid that young women of today are so independent that the idea of being chaperoned is anathema to them. The key to enjoying parties is not to drink too much and to dance cheek to cheek. I shall go to as many parties as I can during the Christmas period. My only sadness is that my dear friend Lord Brockett is in prison and won't be able to share in all the fun.

Emily Mortimer



MY main worry is not knowing what to say. You are in a no-win situation because you are either trying to escape from someone, or you are convinced that someone is trying to avoid you. As an actress, I receive a lot of invitations. I am surprised at how many people expect me to be thick. I guess it goes with the job.

The secret to staying sober

NATURE is no more fair in distributing the gift of being able to metabolise alcohol quickly than it is in the way it apportions the rest of its bounty.

Until they reach the menopause, women absorb alcohol more quickly, and metabolise it more slowly than men. Therefore they become drunk faster, but take longer to sober up.

In men, an alcohol metabolising enzyme is secreted in the stomach as well as the liver. It is also popularly believed that in women the

alcohol passes more rapidly from the stomach into the small intestine, from where it is more promptly absorbed.

After the menopause a woman's ability to deal with alcohol more closely resembles that of a man.

The stomach is emptied less quickly if milk, or other fatty food, has been taken first. Bland drinks, particularly if they are fizzy like champagne, slip more easily through the stomach into the intestine than do spirits. From there they pass swiftly into the bloodstream.

Alcohol drunk with a meal is absorbed at a pace which is not so likely to lead to trouble. The average person is assumed to metabolise alcohol at the rate of one standard unit an hour. The term unit refers to a measure of spirits, a standard glass of wine, or half a pint of medium-strength beer or cider.

The secret of enjoying the party, and breakfast next day, is to have milk before going out and to eat when drinking.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA
Jonathan Miller's delicious staging of *The Mikado* comes back to the London Coliseum
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



JAZZ
A female Harry Connick? Rising singing star Diana Krall performs at Pizza Express, Soho
GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE
Roald Dahl's *The Witches* returns to the West End for a Christmas season at the Vaudeville
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, writes a handbook on *Fighting Terrorism* IN THE SHOPS NOW
REVIEW: Thursday

I find it hard to understand why Mrs Bottomley is not the most popular politician in Britain. She looks good, sounds good and always wants to do us so much good. She is telegenic, photogenic, radio-highly active, and every time I meet her I think she's bound to be a winner. She is the minister of fun, and yet all she collects are catcalls. Why?

Recently, that distinguished economics commentator Sir Samuel Brittain wrote an article on the subject of Darwin and economics which he titled: "It's the biology, stupid". Given leave to employ a similar colloquial directness, if I were to say in a sentence why I thought Mrs Bottomley's name was not sung from the hilltops, chanted on the terraces and remembered in prayers I would reply: "It's the lottery, stupid".

The lottery adds to the gaiety of the nation, profits a few surprisingly decent citizens, and benefits a myriad of organisations throughout the land. Yet it has about it that unmistakable ring of no confi-

dence and alas, it all rubs off on Mrs Bottomley. She ought to be its queen bee. Adoring swarms should gather around her wherever she settles. Instead, most of what she gets is blame. Blame for giving too much to too few and too little to too many. Blame for the perceived overcompensation of Camelot, and blame for all the inevitable grudges which always outnumber gratitude.

Who is responsible for transforming this bouquet into a poisoned chalice? Cutting through Marxist and societal views of history, I would settle this time on individuals. Their lordships, I'm afraid, are responsible. Their lordships have not looked after their lady.

I refer here to their two lordships, Rothschild and Gowrie. Lord Gowrie, a warm acquaintance from long back and full of

fine deeds, seems an unlikely suspect; if it were possible to be even less likely a suspect, Lord Rothschild is that man. Yet it is because of them, I believe, that she does not wear the crown of a triumphant Tory populism.

From the outset (with that dire, politically inept and badly handled overpayment for the Churchill documents, which many people in Britain thought we might already own) there has been a whiff of the *droit de seigneur* — that the first deflowering should come from the ancient regime. But this is public buncie. To see it dished out by those who have so much already, and too often, it seemed, to those who already have so much, was unacceptable. These were the smoke signals from the lottery, and there was sufficient fire to keep the smoke going. Unfortunately for Mrs Bottomley, it fell into the gift



of those who, enormously enlightened though they are, apologise and indeed seem to practice *de haut en bas* dispensation — out of touch with the times. But the lottery is modern.

So the lottery began at the top with the toffs and has not been able to shake this off. In some ways it has been on the run ever since, thus clouding Mrs B's opportunity to shine in a job for which she was surely sculpted by fortune, and one in which she could have won loud hurrahs for her party.

Of course — particularly in the past few weeks — it has begun to tackle its own prematurely arthritic rules and organisation. It has taken a rather feeble shot at flexibility and a slightly better shot at populist buncie. But it may be too late. See how easily a document from the Labour Party which, among other things, queried Camelot, addressed the doubtful double role of the Director-General of Oflot, and came up with imaginative suggestions such as a community chest and the

targeting of gifted children — how easily that makes the present engine look clanky.

The suspicion lingers that little thought was given to this grand opportunity. An aristocratic wave was never going to be enough, and the wave is rather a wave of goodbye to a wonderful chance Mrs Bottomley had to become a folk heroine.

You cannot expect order at the annual comedy awards: I was in the studio when the live events took place, and frankly at times I rather longed for more disorder than the general rowdiness, which grew as the evening went on and the alcohol slid down. Spontaneous sallies from the audience, perhaps, to test the locomotive delivery of Jonathan Ross — he could cope; or a recipient who defied the three-line whip of 20

seconds of galloped thanks, and embarked on a shaggy dog story or forgot his name or sang a silly song. People are rattled on and off rather uncomfortably. The bar-racking was not well received by the massed comedians present — a good litmus test that it was not funny. The constant references to getting "pissed" were so true as to be more in the realm of documentaries than comedy.

And there is a recent, threatening development in such awards. That is the sending up of the person who makes the award, the person who receives the award, or both. We are told that the tyrannical younger viewer enjoys this and it can keep the show lively. But it also keeps it free of emotion, free of much sense of achievement and free of a sense of a classy event. Two of the older winners showed that the old way might still have some juice in it. Cilla Black was moved by what she clearly felt was a great moment; Dave Allen was truly witty. Honour was saved, applause was heartfelt.

Why they'll always boo poor Mrs B

A departure for Domingo

SOMETIMES lightning strikes during an opera performance, not very often, and occasionally in the unlikeliest circumstances. When it happens, Dr Johnson's "ecstatic and irrational entertainment" becomes a theatrical experience like no other.

It happened at Covent Garden on Friday in what the cynical might describe as unlikely circumstances: a one-off performance of *Die Walküre*, at gala prices to celebrate Plácido Domingo's 25th anniversary with the Royal Opera and to launch a week in which he is generously presiding over fundraising for the Development Appeal.

Instead of singing Cavardossi — with which he made his debut in 1971 — as originally announced, Domingo chose to undertake his first Wagner role in London, Siegmund. It was a carry decision. The part lies perfectly for him, not too high, and exploiting the strength in the middle of his voice: there are precedents — Vickers, Vinay — for Otello who are also fine Siegmunds. Add the Latin warmth of his sound and an Italianate sense of musical line, and you have

as beautifully sung a Siegmund as you could hope to hear. And as if to confound cynics, he entered fully into both the spirit and the letter of the unconventional Richard Jones production.

He was joined in what was previously the most weakly cast section of this *Ring* by an outstanding Sieglinde, Karen Huffnoot. She is a soprano who always gives 110 per cent in performance, and then a bit more: she was in radiant, rock-steady voice and unleashed torrents of impassioned yet perfectly controlled singing. With Deborah Polaski (Brünnhilde), Jane Henschel (Fricka) and John Tomlinson (Wotan) all in even better form than for the recent cycles, this was an evening of rare vocal splendour.

There were moments in the first act when it sounded as if a little more rehearsal might have been desirable, but Simone Young, also new to Wagner here, negotiated one or two awkward corners with an admirably cool head. Confidence and concentration grew in the second act with a breakneck prelude and a perfectly paced account of the tricky Annunciation of Death, and lightning struck. The third act was simply electric from beginning to end. A thrilling evening, one that those lucky enough to attend will not easily forget.

RODNEY MILNES

THEATRE: A children's fairy-tale full of fun; plus bitter badinage from a disabled company

A feast of beastly riches

"A FAIRY-TALE thriller" is the subtitle of this year's Christmas show and the production certainly lives up to the description, with its abrupt extinction of lights in the auditorium (excited shrieks from the rows of school parties), the jump-cuts between scenes, and the agonised roars from the Beast.

Laurence Boswell sets the adventures in a fairy-tale France where Beauty's family, in their early years of wealth, wear 18th-century costume and spun-sugar wigs. The cast enters down the aisles of the theatre, chatting up the audience.

The set is a round, planked stage from which walkways slope up to three towering wardrobes, and at the start of the evening eight elegant metal chairs are arranged in a line across the diameter. Beauty's parents, her brothers and sisters, perch on these, tossing the narrative line between them, and a particularly effective moment deriving from this occurs when Beauty's mother dies: the actress (Jan Pearson) stands up as if surprised by the announcement and slowly, reluctantly moves away.

Liz May Brice's Beauty, her face expressing wonder, courtesy, moments of irritation but unflinching true grit, undergoes

the usual fairy-tale journey that climaxes, as it does in Strindberg's *Swanwhite* at the Gate, with an act of redemptive love. I have some difficulty with this concept, and a reviewer of a Christmas show is not the place to enlarge upon it, but Boswell's plot throws a small wobble by not explaining why the Beast (Simon Gregor, growing behind the mask) is under a curse in the first place. A glance at the text in the programme reveals the character of a wicked queen who may have made her final exit during rehearsals.

Her departure leaves a slit in the logic but damages neither the excitement of Beauty's adventures, nor a spirit of fun that keeps bubbling back into the production. Gary Sefton's stammering robotic Servant is an excellent creation, and Vicki Pepperdine's automaton Maid is neatly funny too.

The character of the music (composer: Mick Sands) ingeniously changes as the story moves forward: Baroque elegance giving place to rustic jigs and, once the palace is reached, to Arabic, Indian and African melodies. Boswell's production gives plenty of enjoyable riches for the imagination to feed upon.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Simon Gregor in a mask part dragon's head, part tree root, and Liz May Brice as Beauty

Not deaf to the issues

A NUMBER of devils are set up to be knocked down in this collaboration between Graese, Britain's leading disabled people's theatre company, and Basic Theatre, a black disabled company. Roy Winston's plot involves four black performers who represent Britain at an arts festival in America, where they are subjected to manipulative niceness by the organisers and

Sympathy for the Devil Tricycle

calls for militant agitation by Jud Evans, a white disabled-rights activist played by Jonathan Keeble.

As the badinage becomes more bitter, the members of the group dispute whether they owe allegiance to the black community, the disabled or their own individual desires. Consider that the group's director and dancer are in the midst of an affair, and you can imagine how the plot thickens.

Winston's best writing concerns pairs of characters. In one encounter, the group's partially deaf leader, Ray Harrison Graham's Fitzroy, explains to his incredulous mother (Deborah A. Williams) that he wants to marry a blind girl. Another features the one-handed Jackie (Williams again) and the blind Chantelle (Maria Osbodi), each of whom expounds with increasing spite on the romantic circumstances of her companion.

The writing in these scenes is absorbingly honest, and Graham himself directs with appropriate vigour.

ANDY LAVENDER

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MUSICAL

Film director Federico Fellini becomes a stage character in Nine at the Donmar



FILMS

Spot on: the new Disney blockbuster, 101 Dalmatians, parades its canine charms in Britain



POP

Shane MacGowan, former Pogue and well-worn veteran of punk, brings his band the Popes to the Astoria

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

POP: The Who revive their neglected Mod masterpiece Quadrophonia; plus an interview with Beck, the singer the stars love to love

A misunderstood monster

Too busy to be a slacker

What a capricious, anomalous life this must be for Roger Daltrey and John Entwistle. Umbilically connected to one of the great original British rock'n'roll groups, they are required every seven years or so to go into the booth and don the rock superhero costume once more.



The Who's Quadrophonia live at Earls Court. "Touring endeavours have polished this show into a splendid fairground spectacle"

The Who Earls Court

itch, resuscitating The Who for the specific task of exhuming his 1973 opus Quadrophonia, has met predictable vilification. But those who saw the fingers of his lumbering monster twitch anew in Hyde Park in June have grasped some of the Frankensteinian fervour that sent him back into the laboratory, hoping to redress the memory of a much misunderstood creation.

Quadrophonia, of course, was a nostalgic work even when it first appeared. On the original album, Townshend paid his emotional respects to the Mod milieu of the 1960s for which The Who helped to provide the soundtrack even if they never lived the life. But their attempts to bring the work to the stage were beset by the technological limitations of the 1970s.

Emboldened by his later-day theatrical success with Tommy, Townshend has thus added yet another postscript to a group that never quite reaches the full stop. Earls Court was a mixture of original fans and inquisitive youngsters. The reviews for the American tour of Quadrophonia that followed that

chilly summer day in the park were wildly enthusiastic, and whatever the wisdom of its revival, those touring endeavours have polished this show into a splendid fairground spectacle. Some of the sideshows have changed since June. Gary Glitter's role went with admirable casting to another rock'n'roll caricature, P.J. Proby, while the Ace Face/Bell Boy character was now another wise

choice. Billy Idol, a man who could sneer for England. In the absence of Phil Daniels from the Hyde Park production the part of the 1960s adolescent schizophrenic Jimmy was played out on film this time, again illuminated by scenes from Francis Roddam's film version of the piece. Townshend cut a mentor figure, happy now to play barely audible acoustic guitar, but Daltrey and

Entwistle did nothing but enhance the memory of their immense contribution to The Who legend. At 52, Daltrey is stunningly fit and toned, his voice still towering, his microphone-swinging skills still intact. Entwistle, the Ox, remains a rock of expressive agility on the bass. Respectful throughout, the audience was truly stoked when Pete and Rog stepped outside the brief, return-

ing for an acoustic Won't Get Fooled Again and bringing the band in for Behind Blue Eyes and Who Are You. It may seem to some like rock necrophilia, but who can blame Daltrey's yearning for The Who to breathe again? Against all odds, they are still meaty, beefy, big and bouncy, even in half life.

PAUL SEXTON

Half an hour before Beck Hansen is due on stage at the Paris Bataclan, a waiter thrusts a copy of Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting into his hands and asks him to sign it. Even though Beck hasn't read the book (nor, indeed, is he connected with the Trainspotting phenomenon), he dutifully scrawls his signature across one of the pages.

The 26-year-old singer-songwriter's polite, Californian drawl is the antithesis of the drug-fuelled invective of Welsh's characters, but it seems appropriate that his name should be casually linked to one of the big success stories of recent times. After all, Beck's Odelay, a brilliant fusion of hip-hop, pop, punk, funk, folk and garage, is a strong contender for the album of 1996, loved not only by the million-and-a-half people who have bought it, but also by music critics and bands such as Pulp and Oasis.

Indeed, Noel Gallager was so enamoured with Odelay that he offered to remix the single Don't Smile at Me, helping it to reach No 22 in the charts last month. Beck's a hero of mine," Gallager says. "Hopefully, there will be more collaborations in the future."

"I felt very honoured by Noel's interest," Beck says. "I would never think that he would have the time to do something like that. I mean, I wouldn't even have time to remix one of my own songs, no matter how much I liked it."

Beck has been continually busy since he first emerged in 1994 with his single Loser, an upbeat slab of post-grunge pop which gave him a major label deal with Geffen and an international hit. However, the song also saw him crowned "King of the Slackers", an odious title that has haunted him ever since.

After releasing his first album, Mellow Gold, Beck tried to shake off the slacker tag by taking advantage of the clause in his contract which allows him to record for other labels, and putting out two very different albums. One Foot in the Grave and Stereopathetic Soul Manure, in quick succession.

He returned to the fore last June, teaming up with the DJs and producers the Dust Brothers, who helped him to create the techno-blues cocktail of

Odelay. "I like putting incredibly harsh sounds next to extremely delicate melodies," Beck says. "We live in a world that is full of contradictions, so it seems natural for that to be reflected in music."

The contradictions in Beck's sound can be at least partly explained by his childhood. It was split between the colourful, artistic world of Los Angeles, where he lived with his mother Bibbe Hansen, (a teenage habitué of Andy Warhol's Factory), whose Hollywood home became a hangout for punk bands, and the more parochial world of Kansas, where he spent the summers with his paternal grandfather, a Presbyterian preacher.

"The religious energy of a



Beck finding music in the sounds of contradictions

minister in front of his congregation is pretty similar to rock'n'roll energy," Beck says. "The grunt and the groan and the punctuation of a sermon is similar to the grunt and groan of a soul singer or a rapper. It's all connected to the blues."

Johnny Cash was sufficiently touched by one of Beck's simplest blues songs, Rowboat, to record it for his new album Unchained, and Beck supported Cash in one of his concerts a couple of years ago. The occasion gave him the chance to meet June Carter Cash, whose mother, Maybelle, was a major influence on his guitar style. "I never thought I would be that close in person to one of the Carter family," Beck says.

ANN SCANLON

Beck plays Manchester Academy tonight, Brixton Academy, London, tomorrow and SSK, Dublin, on Wed

FESTIVALS devoted to the music of contemporary composers are not easy to mount in today's economic conditions. All praise therefore to the South Bank Centre and Philharmonia Orchestra, in association with Van Walsum Management, for putting on a substantial eight-programme series of the works of György Ligeti.

Peering through the clouds

who, with Ligeti, is responsible for the artistic direction of a similarly inspired recording project by Sony Classical of the complete works. The Cello Concerto (1966) juxtaposes the two modes - regular, mechanical activity and drifting, slow-moving clusters - that correspond to the series title. The cellist, here the admirably adept David Geringas, begins with a literally maddening thread of sound (marked pppppppp in

CONCERT: Barry Millington welcomes an eight-programme series devoted to György Ligeti

the score) which is gradually picked up, elaborated and distorted by neighbouring notes supplied by both soloist and accompanying instruments. In the second of the two movements there is some staccato tick-tocking, and finally a mysterious scurrying

during which the cellist's hands disappear up the fingerboard - into the clouds, as it were. The San Francisco Polyphony, dating from a few years later (1973-74), deals more, as its title suggests, with overlapping contrapuntal lines.

The cloudy textures now let more sky through, however, and there is a distinctly brittle quality to the music that Salonen and the Philharmonia caught perfectly. There are also alternating phases of tension and repose, neatly encapsulated in Salonen's handling of the whiplash ending. If the primary reason for including Mahler's Symphony No 4 in the programme was to encourage the punters, it worked - the downstairs

area of the Festival Hall was very respectably filled. Yet this was no make-weight filler. Salonen brought out the harsh realities underlying the jingling sleigh-bells in severely articulated, forcefully shaped phrases. The solo fiddler of the Scherzo (Christopher Warren-Green) was allowed to go rustic with a vengeance, while Joan Rodgers's soprano solo in the finale characterised the child's earthy vision of heavenly bliss more astutely than I can ever remember. This series continues tonight.

BARRY MILLINGTON

EVENTS

I trust you have all had a magical evening and a party for your thoughts. Please, thank for choosing the nice of clubs, legends Howard

EXHIBITIONS

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000. The Ring. Mon-Fri 7.30. Sat 8.00. Sun 7.30. Tickets: 0171 304 4000

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SUNSET

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السؤال الأول

Matthew Parris



Even six years on, the tribe still has a deep feeling of guilt, which explains its death-wish

Some six years ago I tried in a Times parliamentary sketch to capture the Tory mood at the demise of Margaret Thatcher. And not only the mood, but (as I supposed) the forces I sensed at work within the parliamentary Conservative Party at that time.

I wrote of "the tribe". The tribe had suffered a great internal convulsion. They have not, as individuals, known what they were doing, but the tribe has known what it was doing.

The tribe mourned her departure. Not falsely or without feeling they wept. Then the tribe fell upon her assailant, Michael Heseltine, and slew him too — with many shouts of anger. Real anger.

It could have been done as ballet. It had all the elements of a classical drama. Like Chinese opera or Greek tragedy the rules required that certain human types be represented, certain ambitions be portrayed, certain actions punished. Every convention was obeyed, every actor played out his role.

Now I begin to think the tragedy is not over. There being (so far as I know) no Jungian salon among those who write about public affairs, my theories of the collective unconscious of the Conservative Party are hard to fit or justify within any modern school of political commentary, but I state with what conviction I can command that I do not believe the Tories' present problems concern Europe.

If they did, John Major's admirable *On the Record* interview yesterday would dispel the problem. How can it, said Tony Euro-sceptics that a Labour government be sent to Amsterdam to defend Britain's position? Everybody knows the next Tory government, if there is one, will not enter the first wave of a single currency, so what purpose is served by casuistry over the precise formulation of the party's present position? Such questions have been put so often now that it is tedious to repeat them. Tony Euro-sceptics just go blank when you pose them. Their eyes glaze over. The question is not answered. Then

Each member may want to win the election, but the tribe seeks catharsis

Laugh at me if you like, but I think the problem is Margaret Thatcher. The Tory tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to her. There is an unwitting yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it. John Major and the electorate cheated them of their catharsis.

For the Tory tribe, Mr Major has become a totem for its inability to say sorry. In hating him, they hate themselves and their own treachery. He was not the perpetrator of the treachery, but he was its benefactor. Still alive and visibly distraught, Baroness Thatcher hangs still in the tribe's imaginative memory as a symbol of their underserving.

Mr Major's efforts, however, may be futile. One person could save him, and that is Margaret Thatcher.

The Prime Minister has decided not to join the single currency, but cannot bring himself to say so

What Major meant to say was No

The Prime Minister must have been well pleased with the success of yesterday's BBC interview with John Humphrys. He handles these big interviews very well. He sometimes sounds rather petulant at Prime Minister's Questions, but in these television interviews he usually sounds moderate, decisive and pleasantly relaxed. Yesterday's came after a bad week, which included the loss of his majority, a horrible opinion poll and some indiscreet lobby talk by Kenneth Clarke. John Major was not only able to defend himself from these tactical reverses, but to establish a moderate Euro-sceptic strategy for the general election.

The election will be in the spring, probably on May 1. The Amsterdam conference, which will decide the difficult issues of the inter-governmental conference, will be held in June. John Major yesterday made it clear that he is going to campaign on the theme: "Would you rather have Tony Blair going to Amsterdam and signing away the national interests of the United Kingdom which I have been fighting to defend?" Last Monday the mysterious source close to John Major flew a trial balloon in *The Daily Telegraph*. The source suggested there might be a commitment not to join the single currency in the next Parliament. The source found, and John Major found, the apple not yet ripe; indeed it proved to be green and bitter. The Prime Minister then had to reaffirm the old and shopsoiled open-option policy, and the trial balloon was shot down by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. That does not mean that John Major might not have preferred to fight the next election on a policy of "no single currency in the next Parliament".

The Prime Minister is at his most formidable when he appears to be surrounded. Clarke and Heseltine

did put a stop to him making the direct challenge to Labour on the single currency. But each month that the election gets closer, Clarke and Heseltine become less powerful. They should not be provoked beyond endurance, but they will not be able to dictate policy during the campaign. If John Major wins, he will not be under any further obligation to either of them. They would then be people of no importance.

The policy John Major actually outlined to John Humphrys substituted a second-best but almost equally useful line on the single currency. John Major refused once again to rule out British entry, but he did emphatically rule it out if the potential members do not genuinely meet the Maastricht criteria. "If they are fudging the criteria, there is no question of the UK joining," he said. He also said the European economic convergence must be "sustainable". By next April there will be even more evidence on these points. There have already been notorious fudges in both France and Italy; neither country is likely to meet the budget deficit criterion by "sustainable" means. In an April campaign, the Prime Minister will be free to look at this evidence; if he concludes that there has been no sustainable convergence, he can then point back to this interview and say that he has long made it clear that there was no question of Britain joining an unsustainable euro-currency.

He also specified a number of other points which Britain will not accept in Amsterdam next June if he is still Prime Minister. He will not hand over to the European Union control of policy on borders, immigration and asylum. He will not accept qualified majority voting for a common European foreign policy. He will not accept any massive increase in majority voting. He will not accept a transfer of responsibility for employment policy, particularly as

the acceptance of a flexible European Union, with countries choosing to be in or out of particular commitments, including the single currency. The slogan is "co-operation, yes; centralisation, no". The Conservatives are not going to join in any great extension of the integration of Britain into Europe. The public do not want that either.

William Rees-Mogg

our unemployment is now falling, while that of France and Italy is much higher.

In their comments after the broadcast, John Redwood, Geoffrey Howe and Peter Lilley all expressed their satisfaction at what had been said, which suggests that at least one of them may have misunderstood the Prime Minister's message. I found myself in particular agreement with Peter Lilley's observation that it was now time to press Labour for answers on Europe. The Conservative position is now reasonably clear, even if it is not as frank on the single currency as it should be. It centres on

the time of Harold Macmillan I have learnt to distrust politicians who use metaphors derived from gambling. Major said that if you are "playing poker with 14 other skilled players, you don't turn your cards face up," and claimed he had "good reason to be opaque". On Europe, in the past, he has destroyed public confidence by being far too opaque.

At the next election, neither John Major nor Tony Blair will be playing poker, which is a game of deceit, but the game of democracy. Entering the single currency is the biggest economic decision since Britain joined the Common Market. Almost all the relevant facts are known already. By the election there will be more than ample evidence on which to decide whether Britain should go in or stay out. Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out which in substance he has already taken. That is itself a serious weakness of the Conservative campaign. But John Major has found a way to sidestep Kenneth Clarke, and in April there will be little doubt about the real thrust of Conservative policy.

The Labour position on Europe is in much greater doubt. We know they are more Europhile than the Conservatives but we do not know what that means. I doubt whether Tony Blair would take us into a single currency; the referendum commitment probably ties his hands anyway. I fear that Tony Blair might agree to unacceptable centralising measures at Amsterdam through inexperience and a natural desire to make a good impression on his first big European occasion. If so, he will regret it later on. What is certain is that Labour will have to answer the European questions. Once again, like a skilful dentist, John Major has managed to find a gold filling in what appeared 24 hours ago to be the jaws of death.

It's too late now to change

Peter Riddell says voters have already made up their minds about the parties

John Major yesterday presented the best case for the Government and its European policies that I have heard for a long time. His approach is not only in the national interest but is also politically right. But it probably comes too late, since the Tories appear in no mood to come to their senses. It is a fantasy to believe that a dramatic new initiative or change of course in Europe would suddenly improve the Tories' prospects, rather than damage them further.

Barring acts of God, wars or sudden deaths, the decisive shift in public opinion has already occurred as a result of the Tories' earlier mistakes and divisions and of the reinvention of Labour under Tony Blair. What happens between now and polling day may affect the scale of victory or defeat, but not which party wins. These months are highly unlikely to save the Conservatives.

Of course, the size of any majority is important, not least to individual MPs and candidates. But campaigns, whether the current preliminary skirmishing or the final four-week battle, are nearly as important as politicians and the media like to believe. It is easy for insiders to become caught up in the latest propaganda exchanges or rows of the day, and to believe they have a big impact. There is little evidence that the battle over "Jennifer's ear" or Neil Kinnock's triumphalist Sheffield rally made any real difference to the 1992 result. The public is more detached and sensible.

Elections are very seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Admittedly, many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on



their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign, as opposed to the mere need to make a decision. Levels of party support do shift during campaigns, often to favour the third party, but these changes have very seldom been enough to alter the result. Most movements cancel each other out, while many undecided or hesitant voters revert to previous loyalties. Based on the comprehensive data of the long-running British Election Study, the several authors of *Labour's Last Chance?* concluded that in 1992 it was "very unlikely that Labour could have done anything in the campaign to have generated enough votes for an overall majority or even to have made it the largest party in a hung Parliament... The 1992 election was like most of its

predecessors won and lost before the official campaign ever began.

But campaign strategists still have a powerful hold. Labour was, for example, widely thought to have "won" the 1987 and 1992 campaigns, and some of its leaders congratulated themselves on having fought a "good" war, even though the party lost where it really mattered, in the ballot box. Professor Dennis Kavanagh, one of Britain's leading political academics, argues in his book *Election Campaigning* that communications and media strategies can distract politicians, and commentators, from the underlying policy problems of parties. Rather than campaigns, "enduring forces like the voters' social class, religion,

party identification, the Government's record and longstanding images of the parties are more electorally decisive". Most campaign activities are of "marginal importance one way or the other in deciding the election outcome — although in close-run contests they can mean the difference between defeat and victory, and politicians are motivated by the possibility that their efforts might make the difference".

The millions of pounds poured into campaigns are mainly a defensive exercise, to prevent opponents gaining an edge. There is always the fear that something might go disastrously wrong — a fear that Margaret Thatcher felt even at the height of her success. And there is the awful warning of Labour's self-destruction under Michael Foot in 1983. Campaigning can still be impor-

tant at a local level. There is evidence that energetic local campaigning, aimed at target groups of voters, can make a difference of at least a few hundred votes, enough to win or lose in close contests. After all, Labour won about 20 more seats in 1992 than would have been expected given its national share of the vote. This partly reflected its concentration on critical marginals. If the Tories had held on, Mr Major would have had much more room for manoeuvre since 1992.

Parties will always campaign aggressively in the belief that somebody might be influenced. The most effective strategies are those that reinforce existing images. It is not possible to change the public's view of a party, or a leader, during the run-up to polling day. A sudden change will be unconvincing. That is why it is ludicrous for the hard-core sceptics to argue that Tory prospects could be transformed if Mr Major ruled out participation in a single currency. A sizeable minority of committed Tories certainly regard Europe as their top priority, and the issue has been moving up the rankings of importance among voters generally, but it is still well behind health, education, law and order and the economy. Europe is not a vote-winner. Any supposed gains would anyway be more than cancelled out by the losses from the resulting party splits and obvious inconsistencies in policy.

The Tories' only real course is to play the Honest John card, as Mr Major did in his *On the Record* interview. He is at his best when he appears as the man of common sense and experience, and at his worst when he is the partisan and strident party leader. The Tories can claim to have taken necessary tough decisions on the economy and public services, and can contrast this with Labour's evasions. Just as it would be foolish for Labour to compete with the Tories on tax-cutting, so it would be counter-productive for the Tories to abandon their current European policy and to dump a highly successful Chancellor like Kenneth Clarke. Voters are repelled, rather than attracted, by such panicky gestures.

Blair block

JOHN MAJOR'S interview yesterday for the BBC was unprecedented in taking place not in No 10 but in the Prime Minister's conservatory in Huntingdon. But an interview with Tony Blair at his house in Islington, or anywhere else for that matter, would have been even more surprising.

Despite repeated requests from the BBC, Blair hasn't found time for a Sunday lunchtime grilling in the past two years. His most recent appearance was in January 1995, talk at the corporation is that he is frightened of a 50-minute going-over from John Humphrys.

Such suggestions are dismissed by the Labour leader's office as "pathetic", and party sources claim that he is deliberately snubbing the programme. Blair simply hasn't been seeing eye to eye with his editor, David Jordan, they say.

"Perhaps if David Jordan had not been so instrumental in screening an interview with Major just days before Scotland's local elections — a plan which was scrapped by the courts — Tony might have been better disposed towards *On the*

Record," explained one Blairite. Given the circumstances, Humphrys's dressing-room chatter before the interview was revealing: "I meant to get my hair cut," he told the Prime Minister while powdering up, "but then I thought I'm not going to get my hair cut for David Blunkett." Blunkett had been due to appear on the show before Major stepped in.



"It's Sarah asking if I will appear on her chat-show"

● Tony Blair and his family and friends spent Saturday evening celebrating his younger son Nicholas's 10th birthday at Babe Ruth's, a sport-theme restaurant in east London not renowned for its food. After the meal, Blair Sr joined Nicholas for a game of basketball on a mini-pitch in the restaurant. Nicholas wore his birthday present, a Manchester United shirt. Blair and number 10 were written on the back.



Yawn radio

AVOID THE radio station Classic FM on Christmas Day, for Westminster's politicians are taking over and broadcasting for much of the afternoon. The likes of Diane Abbott, Jerry Hayes and Edwina Currie (who else?) will be performing in a version of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Iolanthe*. It sounds difficult enough to bear even without a plot which involves Abbott marrying Hayes. Light relief comes in the form of Lords Healey and Howe, who each make a cameo appearance. And then there is Clare Short in her role as Queen of the Fairies. I shall not be on their wavelength.

● With justice denied him in his home country, France's flying

dwarf, Manuel Wackenheim, is turning elsewhere to defend his right to be shot out of a cannon. In 1991, the French Ministry for the Interior declared that aft Wackenheim's proleptic vivand act was "a danger to public morality". France's highest administrative court, the *Conseil d'Etat*, upheld the ban and the European Court of Human Rights has other things to discuss, so Wackenheim is taking his case to the International Court of Justice instead.

Far right

ALESSANDRA MUSSOLINI, the grand-daughter of Il Duce — who has fortunately inherited her looks from her aunt, Sophia Loren, rather than her grandfather — has returned to the bosom of the post-

Fascist party in Italy, the Alleanza Nazionale. It was just three weeks ago that she bounced off from the party declaring that the post-Fascist leader, Gianfranco Fini, had lost his way. She joined a party yet further to the right, the Tricolour Flame, which claims to be loyal to the traditions of Mussolini's Blackshirts, and still does the Fascist salute at its party congresses.

At the weekend, Signor Fini boasted on a Italian radio phone-in that Alessandra was returning to



Miss Mussolini for mayor?

the fold. Minutes later, Alessandra herself phoned into the show to confirm it. Talk is that she will now stand for election as mayor of Rome for the post-Fascists.

Trump card

NEW YORK property developer Donald Trump, seldom less than artful about polishing his reputation, is boasting of winning arguably the world's biggest gamble. Trump claims to have bet \$1 million on Evander Holyfield to win his recent world boxing heavy-weight championship bout against Mike Tyson. Sure enough, Holyfield came home, on odds (says Trump) of 20-1, leaving "The Donald" with a \$20 million win. "I have to admit, I was surprised when Holyfield won," said Trump at a New York party last week. He claims to have made the bet in Nevada, but the losing bookie has yet to be found.

Steep bank

BASE CAMP on Sir Ranulph Fiennes's polar trek with his 500lb sled, and they are thankful they have not yet encountered difficulties with crevasses. Showing off last October before he set off, the



Fiennes so far

bullet-headed former SAS officer gave a demonstration of how to escape from a crevasse. He attempted to scale the 200ft former Barclays Tower in the City of London, his sled dangling beneath.

Just 15ft from the ground, Sir Ranulph came unstuck. Tangled in his ropes, he was tugged up like a Christmas turkey, unable to move up or down. The window-clearing winch was lowered to rescue him: "I'm an explorer, not a climber," he said huffily.

P.H.S



DANGEROUS EXPANSION

Why early enlargement could fatally weaken the Nato alliance

The second Clinton Administration's most awkward and important strategic task will be the construction of a stable and durable post-Cold War settlement in Europe. This will require a hard fresh American look at the policy of extending Nato into Central Europe, for which the alliance's foreign ministers are expected to set a negotiating timetable when they meet tomorrow.

When they embarked on this path, Western governments may sincerely have believed that Nato enlargement would be a force for European stability. There is barely a politician, let alone a senior military commander, who believes that now. Instead they refer to Nato's "obligation to accept the new democracies", or talk about guarding against a new security vacuum; or privately, say simply that for the West to back off now would send "the wrong message to Russia".

The first two arguments are disingenuous, since the West intends to leave democratic states in the Baltics and Balkans — precisely those most vulnerable to a security vacuum — on the other side of Europe's new dividing line. The third cannot conceivably justify heading into a foreseeable confrontation with Russia that would jeopardise arms control agreements and bolster revanchist anti-Western nationalism. That could prove to be the last great geostrategic blunder of this dreadful century.

If the West is genuinely to enhance European security, three historical precedents provide guidance — the peace settlements of 1815 and 1919; and the handling of Germany after 1945. The lesson they teach is that when, as with France after 1815 and Germany after 1945, vanquished but potentially formidable aggressors are folded into new political structures, the reward is durable peace. The penal strictures of the Treaty of Versailles, by contrast, fed resentments that assisted the rise of Nazi dictatorship. With the most honourable and indeed peaceful of intentions, the West is busy breeding in contemporary Russia much the same sense of outraged national

pride and insecurity that warped German politics in the interwar years.

If enlargement also lowers Nato's credibility as a military alliance, it will have created the worst of all worlds. That is likely, for two reasons. The first is that if Nato meets its goal of admitting new members by its 50th anniversary in 1999, or does so soon after, their armed forces will not be adequately trained or equipped to participate reliably in Nato's integrated military structure. For some years, they will be second-class members, and seen to be such since Nato plans to station no alliance forces on the territory of the new members.

The second could be called the "no war for Maribor" problem. Nato parliaments must ratify any enlargement treaty. When Nato was founded, the US Senate was persuaded only with great difficulty to underwrite the core Article 5 guarantee that an attack on one member is an attack on all. Now the US Senate may well refuse to accept the major new security commitment of extending Article 5 protection from Western Europe to countries such as Slovakia or Slovenia.

If that happened, the whole of Nato would be gravely weakened. Yet so conscious are Western European governments of their debts of honour, particularly to Poland and the Czech Republic, that none of them is prepared to apply the brakes. America alone could do so — by insisting that Nato enlargement should be an outgrowth of the expansion of the European Union. That would buy time to work out ways of meeting Mr Clinton's pledge to include Russia in "a security circle for all of Europe". It would force the Europeans to face the double standards they have applied with respect to the continent's new democracies.

The start of a new term gives Mr Clinton his window of opportunity. He may not yet be persuaded of the geopolitical risks of enlargement; but this most political of Presidents is not the man to court the risk of an historic defeat at the hands of the US Senate. That should concentrate his mind.

QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

Major spoke well but solved nothing

Rising, as ever, to the challenge of a party crisis, John Major was confident and relaxed in his BBC interview yesterday. The Prime Minister's answers, however, are unlikely to satisfy the backbenchers and voters of all persuasions who reject the Government policy of remaining forever silent on the most important issue facing the country in the approaching general election.

The Prime Minister's statements remained full of familiar inconsistencies and evasions. On the one hand, Mr Major said it would be quite wrong for Britain to state its opposition to the single currency, because if it did, this country would lose all influence over the design of economic and monetary union. Yet he was prepared to say, in advance of all negotiation, that he would not countenance ceding any power whatsoever to Brussels over Britain's borders, or immigration. The implication was that border controls and asylum policy is not open to negotiation, while control over the economy is. Does Mr Major seriously want to suggest that policy on rabid dogs and asylum-seekers is more important than who sets Britain's interest rates?

Because he is so reluctant to offend his Chancellor, the Prime Minister seems unable to see that the single currency involves matters of principle, as well as calculations about temporary economic interests. To him, the choice facing Britain appears to be merely a matter of contingent economics. If he were to apply this approach to a common immigration policy, he would negotiate quite happily with other member states, wait to see what the result was, and decide whether or not Britain should support it once he had looked at such details as whether first cousins, or just spouses should be allowed to live in the EU.

The Prime Minister held out the vague hope of using the narrow economic grounds of the convergence criteria to try to stop the EMU project. That would be wholly

desirable, and justifiable, if he could show that the relevant economic figures were fudged. But what if they are not? What if only Germany and a few other fiscally responsible countries went ahead? Would Mr Major then gleefully sign Britain up for the single currency? The only answer he is willing to give is "trust me".

That would be easier to do if voters knew what the Prime Minister's instincts really were. How far will Mr Major go to stop further centralisation? How much more important for him is that Britain should remain "at the heart of Europe"? The electorate is growing increasingly sensitive to these distinctions. The Prime Minister has become a political stunt driver, sometimes a courageous one, but he is running out of road.

Mr Major reiterated yesterday the misleading argument that, if Britain stated in advance that it would not want take part in EMU, it would lose its right to negotiate and vote. This is simply untrue. Whether "in" or "out", each EU country retains its place at the table and its vote. Mr Major may be right to suggest that Britain would lose influence with other countries if it ruled itself out. But even this argument is diminishing in strength as it becomes clear that the attitudes of the "outs" will have a huge effect on the success or failure of the single currency.

We have in the past accepted that Mr Major's equivocal stance may be diplomatically helpful for a time. The question is still how long that equivocation can helpfully and realistically last. The Prime Minister claimed yesterday to be putting the national interest above the party interest. As the election approaches, the two will coincide. The nation will demand to know what he intends to do with the pound. The party will demand that he refuse to give it away. The one answer that he will no longer be able to offer is, "wait and see".

HEROES WITH HERNIAS

The daring young outpatient on the flying trapeze

Among the many deserving objects of our sympathy this Christmas season, spare the briefest of thoughts for Matthew Kelly. Mr Kelly is billed to play Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome this year. With the Hippodrome's run hardly begun, Mr Kelly has already been singled out as a likely candidate for a new form of industrial injury: pantomime-hernia. The production company staging Birmingham's *Mother Goose* and 32 similar hiss-and-boos spectacles reckons that Mr Kelly has the most strenuous time of all its performers: 18 split-second costume changes in each performance — and he goes up in a balloon.

Apparently Mr Kelly is only one of a growing number of professional actors who are succumbing to this new middle-class epidemic, not to mention the many unknown victims among the volunteers who star in the local amateur productions of *Peter Pan* put on by the WI. Before we know where we are, the shop stewards of Equity will be demanding a special hernia allowance for the seven persons of restricted height who have to lug Snow White around the stage. If the hernia epidemic during the

intensive pantomime season is taken as a sign of a wider danger, the contagion may spread. Will the diva who is required to hurl herself over the battlements at the end of *Tosca* or the baritone singing Rigolotto who must carry his daughter in a sack demand extra insurance?

Pantomime creates jobs for actors like nothing else all year. If this year's script says that the cosmic fairy flies all the way round the auditorium over the audience's head, then that's what Scorpio of *Gladiators* will have to do. If he doesn't, there will be other resting celebrities ready to take his place.

If the injury rate makes casts difficult to assemble, a simple solution is to hand. Sports celebrities make second careers for themselves on television, so why should they not become panto stars? Alan Shearer as Dick Whittington, Ian Botham as Puss In Boots; the list of possibilities is endless. They are available, they are fit and they don't limp off to the doctor the first time anyone asks them to lift anything heavier than a handbag. By all accounts, Frank Bruno was a fine genie in *Aladdin* a few years back. Perhaps he was ahead of his time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Misconceptions' on joining EMU

From Sir Thomas Macpherson

Sir, You reported (Business, later editions, December 5) the speech made in London by M J-C. Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France. As a believer in the eventual necessity of a common currency, and in the virtual certainty that some countries will initiate it more or less on schedule, I listened with interest to the array of unchallengeable facts he quoted. There were two areas, however, where he appeared to share familiar misconceptions.

First, he claimed the unfortunately named euro marked "the sweeping away of the final barriers". Not true. There are many barriers to go first — in the investment and insurance markets, telecommunications, transport and energy, and many non-tariff barriers on physical goods. And certain member countries are still blatantly propping up non-competitive enterprises with state aids.

Secondly, he asserted without doubt that the euro would be a strong and stable currency. Increasingly doubtful. Several potential founder members will creep under the wire of the Maastricht criteria by one-off devices, which by definition cannot be repeated. At least one passes the tests through the large percentage of its GDP represented by EU subsidies — when they cease, it fails to qualify.

Finally, the common currency's future depends on the readiness of members to indulge in emergency fiscal transfers from the EU budget to which they contribute. This is only likely to work if there is agreement on a radical reform and reduction of the CAP. Certain members oppose this.

These are among the factors that may make the euro at least initially a vulnerable currency which has to be sustained by upward movement in interest rates.

Britain is right to await developments — but must be deeply involved in helping to establish the practical technicalities. We shall, in or out, be vitally interested in their workability.

Yours faithfully,
TOMMY MACPHERSON,
President, European Chambers of Commerce, 1992-93,
1 Appold Street, EC2,
December 6.

From Mr Rodney Leach

Sir, What exactly is it that we are waiting to see? If the euro promises to be as strong as the Bundesbank wishes, based on strict initial adherence to the Maastricht criteria and a tough stability pact, would we regard this as a plus or a minus? Alternatively, if Italy, Spain and Belgium are admitted, flexible fiscal policies are allowed and the euro becomes a softer currency, would that encourage or discourage us?

Presumably the Cabinet has views about what would influence its recommendation whether or not to join EMU. If so, these views should be stated, since they concern the single most important issue in British life. As it is, a policy of non-commitment without reference to questions of substance is open to two interpretations, both unwelcome — that it conceals some other policy or that there is in fact no policy at all.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH,
3 Lombard Street, EC3,
December 3.

From Mr Andrew Reid

Sir, It is fallacious for hardcore Eurosceptics to claim that the Government's "wait and see" policy is out of step with the rest of the party.

I know that a significant number of Young Conservatives and Conservative Students, like the majority of the party's grassroots, endorse the Prime Minister's flexible approach to a single currency. Not to make a decision until one has all the facts in place seems eminently sensible and worthy of a responsible political party.

What is irresponsible, even masochistic, is for backbench MPs to call for the Chancellor's head. The most successful Chancellor in 20 years, who has overseen a remarkable transformation in Britain's economic fortunes, seems a peculiar choice for the chop. In this pre-election period it would be better for those who represent Conservatives in Parliament to direct their firepower on the Labour Party. That is what true Conservatives want.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW REID
(President, Young Conservative Group for Europe),
21 Charlbert Court,
Charlbert Street, NWS.

Gregorian precedent

From Professor P. S. Atiyah

Sir, Mr Clarke does well to warn us against staying aloof from European reforms, only to have to join them later with more difficulty. But the precedents for this type of behaviour go back further than he has suggested.

When the Julian Calendar was reformed by Pope Gregory in 1582 Britain refused to have any part of it for nearly 200 years. This delay meant that when we finally did pass the Calendar Act of 1750, we were left with the most absurd fiscal year in the world, starting on April 6. Struggling with self-assessment, I could wish that Mr Clarke would move the beginning of the fiscal year to January 1 where it more sensibly belongs.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. ATIYAH,
75 Main Road, Long Hanborough,
Witney, Oxfordshire.

Edward VIII: folly or treason of a monarch in exile?

From Mr Michael Ryan

Sir, Despite the damning wave of new releases from the Public Record Office confirming in extraordinary detail the truth of Channel 4's two programmes on Edward VIII, (report, December 4), Mr Philip Ziegler still believes the former King was "a fool, but no traitor" ("Nothing to be done with the playboy Duke", December 4).

The evidence that Edward was a traitor turns on his actions. The programmes can speak for themselves, but let me cite a few examples of his deeds, not just his pro-Nazi opinions. In the winter of 1940, as a military liaison officer in France, Edward revealed strikingly or unwittingly to the Nazis details of the Allied battle plans. Hitler later changed his plan of attack for the invasion of France, choosing the route through the Ardennes.

Edward's extraordinary peregrinations in Spain and Portugal show that he actively encouraged the Nazi plot to return him to the throne. If he was a patriot, why did he not make a public pronouncement dissociating himself from Hitler's blandishments?

As Governor of the Bahamas, Edward not only expressed pro-Hitler sentiments to the American journalist Fulton Oursler, but persuaded him to visit President Roosevelt to plead his case. The purpose of the mission was to keep America out of the war, and to

strike a deal with Hitler.

Edward expected that "peace" would lead to a popular revolt in Britain, and he would be returned again as King. Thus, at a time when his fellow countrymen stood alone, the Duke was running his own pro-Hitler foreign policy from Government House. Where does "folly" end, and "treason" begin?

The release 40 years early of the PRO papers is to be welcomed. May we now, in this new spirit of glasnost, have access to the royal archives?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL RYAN,
(Producer, *Edward VIII: the Traitor King*),
Hart Ryan Productions Ltd,
84 Long Lane, SE1,
December 5.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, In justice to the Duke of Windsor's name, it must be pointed out that the chances of an "unnamed source" with contacts in German-occupied Czechoslovakia knowing in 1940 of German contacts with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor other than those published in the 1950s are slim.

MI6's prewar network in Germany had been largely wiped out by the progressive loss of its stations in Berlin, Vienna, Prague and The Netherlands

between 1938 and May 1940. Czech Intelligence (and Polish) provided some alternative until our stations in Stockholm, Bern and Ankara were able to build new networks in Germany; but it appears to have been seized on a view of Hitler's dependence on the German military which we now know to have been completely wrong.

Czech political information out of Germany at best represented what its sources thought. The report that the Germans were offering the Duchess the restoration of her husband as a German puppet is, in a word, diplomatic title-tattle from the fringes of the German diplomatic service, if indeed it is nothing more sinister.

Of course, one ringing declaration by the Duke of his faith in his fellow countrymen and in ultimate British victory would have destroyed all the rumours and expectations. The Duke never felt any compulsion so to identify himself with the sentiments of his fellow countrymen. He preferred to play the role of King Zog of Albania, a monarch in exile without a government to support him.

Yours faithfully,
D. CAMERON WATT,
The London School of Economics and Science,
Department of International History,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 4.

Gibraltar's sovereignty

From Dr Joseph Garcia, Leader of the Gibraltar National Party

Sir, Your editorial today, "A civilian in the Convent", is correct in assuming that the choice of Sir Richard Luce as our first civilian Governor is a cause for anxiety in Gibraltar, as is the manner in which the appointment has been executed. The fait accompli, without any consultation with the locally elected Government of Gibraltar, smacks of colonialism and disrespect for the wishes of the Gibraltarians.

This would have been a welcome change from a military man had it come as part of a wider package of constitutional reform. The Rock's political structure dates back to 1969 and is in sore need of updating, predating as it does both Britain and Gibraltar's entry into Europe in 1973.

Sir Richard's own track-record in relation to the Falkland Islands and Hong Kong will only serve to send the wrong signals to Spain. It is regrettable indeed that such an historic

change, breaking with nearly 300 years of tradition, should have come about in this dictatorial manner.

Yours faithfully,
J. GARCIA,
Leader, Gibraltar National Party,
PO Box 225,
93 Irish Town, Gibraltar,
December 4.

From Mr James Nation

Sir, You say that "Gibraltar's sovereignty is not and must not be negotiable over the heads of the Gibraltarians themselves". Why ever not? We did it to Hong Kong over the heads of Hong Kongers, so what is to stop us doing the same to Gibraltarians?

I have lived in both colonies and urge my Gibraltarian friends to watch these slippery Brits very carefully; my Hong Kong friends will tell you that they are not to be trusted.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES NATION,
117 Upper Brook Street,
Winchester, Hampshire,
December 5.

Music in church

From Mrs Christine Osborne and Mr Ted Salmon

Sir, "Children in church are now a rarity," claims Roger Scruton ("Silent night of our hymns", November 30; letters, December 7). May we, through the courtesy of your columns, invite him to St Barnabas, Dulwich.

We have a choir of 67 which includes 35 children and seven teenagers. One of our choristers was Chairman of the Year recently and several have gone to choir schools or gained choral scholarships to their universities. The rest of the congregation pulsates with children: we have 170 families registered.

Our choirmaster and organist leads us in choral worship with ancient and modern hymns from a variety of sources which are sung enthusiastically by

all ages. Our children certainly do not "stand in awkward and undignified silence". All aspects of worship draw on the deep tradition of Anglicanism while using contemporary media.

Ten weeks ago we moved into the newest church in the United Kingdom. Our choir are robed in royal blue and scarlet, our pipe organ is being built and will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. Our children have new accommodation for their teaching groups.

We may appear to be blowing our own trumpet. We would rather we all praised God with enthusiasm and reverence.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE OSBORNE,
TED SALMON (Churchwardens),
St Barnabas Church,
Calton Avenue, SE21,
December 7.

Exeter politics

From Mr Stephen Pettitt

Sir, Dr Adrian Rogers, Conservative prospective candidate for Exeter (letter, December 4; see also letters, December 7), cites the wisdom of the Judaeo-Christian culture (whose condemnation is in any case debatable) as one reason for his own condemnation of homosexual practices.

If Dr Rogers is so strongly convinced of the rightness of Judaeo-Christian thought, he must believe both in a vengeful God and in the tenet of not judging, lest he himself be judged. So why doesn't he just stay mum, secure in the knowledge that God will make His own decision and banish people like me to the eternal flames come the final reckoning?

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN PETTITT,
39 Darwin Road, WS.

From the Chair of the Exeter University Debating Society

Sir, Dr Rogers's claim that it is the Exeter Labour Party that has stimulated this debate is misleading. The Labour candidate for Exeter, Mr Ben Bradshaw, declined to debate this issue before the Exeter University Debating Society and has insisted that he is more than a one-issue campaigner.

Dr Rogers, however, did speak and in so doing proceeded to score political points by referring to Mr Bradshaw's absence.

Attempts by the Exeter University Debating Society to remove the debate from a party political level were vetoed by Dr Rogers's refusal to share the platform with Mr David Allen, chairman of the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM D. S. GEE,
Chair, Exeter University Debating Society,
Devonshire House, Exeter, Devon,
December 4.

Workplace bullying

From Mr Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North (Labour)

Sir, I am glad to see justice has been done ("Clerk wins damages over bullying" later editions, December 3) over one of the increasing number of assaults at work which, I understand, have doubled in the period 1981-91.

I hope that cases such as the bullying incident you covered will increase awareness of the problem sufficiently for positive action to be taken by employers. At the very least, violence or bullying must be properly monitored and counselling for victims provided. In the longer term we must ensure that prosecution and sentencing for violence or victimisation at work is a real deterrent.

Yours sincerely,
G. W. ALLEN,
Shadow Environment Minister
Health and Safety,
House of Commons,
December 4.

Writers cramped

From Ms Janet Menzies

Sir, Your column headed *The Listener* (Media and Marketing, December 4) implies that *Daily Express* Editor Richard Addis's Christmas drinks party for his staff being held in the canteen is a step down. Under the previous management such festivities always took place in the corridor outside the Editor's office.

Yours faithfully,
JANET MENZIES, (Women's Editor),
The Daily Express, 1991-93,
Brambledown,
The Avenue, Westerham, Kent,
December 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Lords reform

From Professor Rodney Brazier

Sir, The Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is wrong to assume that a Labour government would be able to flood the House of Lords quickly with life peers to overcome resistance to Labour's constitutional legislation (report and article, December 5).

New peers cannot vote until they have been introduced into the House, which is master of its own procedures. Under these procedures, usually not more than two introductions take place on any day. The Conservative majority of peers is unlikely to allow changes to standing orders so as to hasten the demise of hereditary peers. Indeed, in theory it could vote to slow down the rate of introductions.

The Parliament Acts alone provide the mechanism accessed by both Houses as governing any irreconcilable disputes between them over legislation.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY BRAZIER
(Professor of Constitutional Law),
The University of Manchester,
Faculty of Law,
Mansfield Cooper Building,
Oxford Road, Manchester,
December 6.

From Lord Wigoder, QC

Sir, You report today that prominent members of the Labour Party are threatening that a Labour government would create many hundreds of life peers in order to ensure the passage of its proposed reform of the House of Lords.

This it has no power to do. All it can do is to threaten to advise the Queen to make such appointments — a matter entirely for the Royal Prerogative.

Whether by modern constitutional practice the monarch is obliged to act upon a Prime Minister's request which would materially change the composition of one of the Houses of Parliament — unless he has the specific mandate of the electorate following a general election in which the proposal was clearly the principal issue, or possibly a referendum — must be open to serious doubt.

Yours sincerely,
WIGODER,
House of Lords,
December 5.

What's in a name?

From Mr Tim Bullamore

Sir, I was both flattered and embarrassed to be greeted by a French musician I had been assigned to meet at Heathrow airport with the words: "Ah, you must be Monsieur Belle-Amour" (letters, November 14, 21, 26, 30, December 7).

Yours humbly,
TIM BULLAMORE,
25 Brock Street, Bath,
December 7.

From Mr William Warre

Sir, A fellow member of the Institute of Masters of Wine, Michael Peace, once invited me to join him in partnership.

This never happened, so saving Tolstoy from turning in his grave.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WARRE,
41 Ridgway Place, SW19,
December 7.

From Mr Graham Roberts

Sir, A few years ago, at a local health authority summer garden party, I introduced Mr Frank Carnall, OBE, to a friend of mine as Mr Knowledge. Word association has its perils.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ROBERTS,
Merrie Meade,
24 Allanson Road,
Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Conwy,
December 5.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 7: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the rugby football match between the Barbarians and Australia at Twickenham, Middlesex.

Birthdays today

Mrs Beverly Anderson, education consultant and broadcaster, 56; Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 46; Sir Nicholas Bonsor, M.P., 54; Mr Billy Bremner, footballer, 54; Sir Stanley Brown, former chairman, C.E.G.B., 86; Miss Susan Bullock, soprano, 38; Sir John Burgh, former president, Trinity College, Oxford, 71; Professor Lord Currie of Marylebone, 53; Mr Henry Davies, former rugby player, 53; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 62; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 80; Mr Douglas Fairbanks Jr., K.B.E., actor, 87; Judge Dawn Freedman, 54; Mr Benny Great, musician, writer and broadcaster, 69; Mr F.G. Hankins, former chairman, Fitch Lovell, 70; Mr Robert Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia, 67; Professor Gabriel Horn, Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 69; Dr Lionel Koppelwitz, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 70; Dame Elisabeth Lenge-Schwarzkopf, opera singer, 81; Ms Julia C. Lomas, public trustee and chief executive, Public Trust Office Executive Agency, 42; John Malkovich, actor, 43; Sir Michael Mann, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 66; Lord Morris, 59; Miss Isobel Poole, Sheriff of the Lothian and Borders, 55; Lord Ross, QC, 70; Sir Peter Smithers, former M.P., 83; Mrs Rita Tynan, televisionist, 71; Miss Joanna Trollope, author, 53.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: John Milton, poet, London, 1608; Johann Winckelmann, archaeologist, Stendal, Germany, 1717; Carl Scheele, chemist, discoverer of oxygen, Stralsund, Germany, 1742; Claude Louis Berthollet, chemist, Tallon, Savoy, 1748; James Hogg, writer, the "Enraptured Shepherd", Ettrick Forest, Selkirkshire, baptised on this day, 1770; Prince Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Moscow, 1842; George Grossmith, co-author of The Diary of a Nobody, London, 1847; Joel Chandler Harris, journalist, author of Uncle Remus, Eatonton, Georgia, 1849; Richard Austen Butler, Lord Butler of Saferton Walden, politician, Attock Serai, India, 1902. DEATHS: Sir Anthony van Dyck, painter, London, 1641; Sir Arthur Pearson, press proprietor, London, 1921; Dame Edith Sitwell, poet, London, 1964; Karl Barth, theologian, Basle, 1968; Ralph Johnson Bunche, diplomat, Nobel peace laureate 1950, New York, 1971. The first episode of Coronation Street was screened on ITV, 1960. Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland, 1990.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of Kent, as president, will attend a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, at 12.30.

University news

Kingston University: Miss Galina Rowshanova opened the Doris House at Kingston University on Wednesday, December 4. Among those present were: Lord Howie of Troon, Sir Frank Lamp, Sir Peter and Lady Middleton, Dr and Mrs Robert Smith, Mr Trader Saulnier, Ms Dorothy Tunn, Ms Beryl Gordun and Mr David and Mrs Sally Brown.



Choristers rehearse Once in Royal David's City for the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. One will be picked as soloist but by tradition will be told only moments before he is to sing

Memorial service

Rabbi Hugo Gryn A service of thanksgiving for the life of Rabbi Hugo Gryn, Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue of British Jews and President of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, was held yesterday at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, and video relayed to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood Road, Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, of the West London Synagogue, officiated. Dr M.A. Zaki Badawi, representing the Muslim Community, Mr Michael Burk, representing the B.B.C's Moral Maze, Sir Martin Gilbert, Rabbi Dick Hirsch, Executive Director of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, Father Oliver McEneaney, the Bishop of Bath and Wells and His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, Life President of the West London Synagogue, officiated. Mr G. David Lewin, president, and Mr Jeffrey Samson, chairman, paid tribute. Others present included: Mrs Gryn (widow), Mr and Mrs David Gryn (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs Gabriel Mackay, Miss Naomi Gryn and Miss Rachelle Gryn (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs Nathan Gryn (nephews-in-law and mother-in-law), the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, the Swiss Ambassador and Mme Nordmann, the Ambassador of Israel and many contingents of the West London Synagogue.

Show goes on after theatre's £8m refit

THE Arts Theatre in Cambridge, which has nurtured the careers of generations of celebrated performers, re-opened last night after a 3½-year facelift costing £8.25 million. The gala evening, to thank fund-raisers, will be followed by Robert Legage's one-man version of Hamlet, opening on Wednesday. Barry Brown, 51, the architect responsible for the improvements and a former president of the Footlights Revue, said the modernisation had been designed to retain "the atmosphere of a building that is very special to Cambridge". The stage has been extended and seating increased from 640 to 680. The theatre was founded in 1936 by John Maynard Keynes, the economist, when he was bursar at King's College. Keynes donated his own money to build the theatre opposite the college. He was joined by Dr George "Dad" Rylands, now 95, a Fellow of King's, who was chairman from 1946 to 1982. He was a guest of honour last night. In the early years Footlights danced Swan Lake, Britten composed The Turn of the Screw, and Ashcroft played Ophelia opposite Gielgud's Hamlet. Rylands's Marlowe Society included a string of household names including Sir Peter Hall, Trevor Nunn and Sir Derek Jacobi. The annual Footlights Revue has launched the careers of Jonathan Miller, Peter Cook, John Cleese, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Fry, Hugh Laurie and Emma Thompson.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.G. Bartlett and Miss R.F. Bosc The engagement is announced between Graham, son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Bartlett, of Goodmayes, Devon, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.T.G. Bosc, of Twickenham, Middlesex. Mr P.A.E. Crawwell and Miss C.E. Richardson The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alex Crawwell, of Harrow, Middlesex, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Richardson, of Redbridge, Essex. Mr J.E.H. Francis and Miss L.A. Beaman The engagement is announced between John, only son of the Rev and Mrs Noel Francis, of Hasby, York, and Lelia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Francis, of Ennis, County Clare. Mr R.W. Goldsbrough and Miss G.C.S. North The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Bill Goldsbrough, of West Lavington, Wiltshire, and Georgina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony North, of Chislehurst, Johannesburg. Mr M.R. Smith and Miss E. Howard The engagement is announced between Martin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Smith, of Sleaford, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Howard, of Cadnam, Southampton. Mr O.J. Toogood and Miss R.C. Flood The engagement is announced between Oliver, youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Toogood, of Malmesbury, and Rachel, elder daughter of Lieutenant Colonel John Flood, and Mrs Flood, of Winchester.

Marriages

The Hon F.W. Campbell and Miss K.J.M. Barrett The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Brompton, of the Hon Frederick William Campbell, younger son of the late Thane of Cawdor and of Kathryn Countess Cawdor, and of Miss Katherine Barrett, third daughter of Mr Richard Barrett, of Dallas, Texas, and of Mrs Jennifer Barrett, of Fulham, The Rev Sandy Miller officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Storm Athill, Athlone Athill, Mrs Sarah Jackson, Miss Nicola Hinson and Dr Jessica Opie, Earl Cawdor was best man. A reception was held at the RAC Club, Fall Mall. Colonel T.M. Fitzalan Howard and Miss J.M. Dow A service of blessing was held on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, North Elmham, Norfolk, after the marriage of Colonel Thomas Michael Fitzalan Howard, son of Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard and the late Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard, and Miss Joanna Mary Dow, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Don, of North Elmham. The Ven Edwin Ward officiated, assisted by the Rev Michael O'Malley and the Rev Noel Twomey. Mr M.R.D. Corwell and Miss L.E. Gordon Lennox The marriage took place on Saturday at the Priory Church of St Mary and St Blaise, Bognor, of Mr Mark Corwell, son of Brigadier and Mrs John Corwell, to Miss Lucy Gordon Lennox, daughter of Lord and Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox. The Right Rev John Satterthwaite officiated, assisted by Canon Jeremy Haselock. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Thomas Caldecott, Frederick Caldecott, Rufus Caldecott, Albert Lindsay, Lord Satterthwaite, Miranda Satterthwaite, Hannah Fleming and Eliza Wake. A reception was held at Goodwood House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad. Mr E.J. Ambrose and Dr S.H. Oton The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, at the Temple Church, London, of Mr Euan Ambrose, only son of Dr and Mrs James Ambrose, of North Cornhill, Argyll, to Dr Sophie Oton, only daughter of Sir Philip and Lady Oton, of Fulham, London. Canon Joseph Robinson officiated, assisted by Canon Barney Milligan. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alexandra Cheate, Dr Lucy Ambrose and Miss Charlotte.

Nature notes

FLOCKS of siskins have been driven south by the weather from Scotland, and are feeding on the seeds in the black alder cones. The males are small green birds with a forked tail, and a black cap that looks as if it needs combing. Goldfinches often feed with them, while sometimes a straying siskin can be found with a flock of goldfinches. With so many black-headed gulls inland in December there are often aerial battles between them and carrion crows, with two or three gulls swooping on their enemy. A crow, in turn, will often pursue a kestrel, or even dive down, rather riskily, on a flying heron. The yellow flowers of Oxford ragwort still bring a little colour into the roadside verges. This southern European flower first escaped from the Botanic Gardens in Oxford and made its way along railway lines until it is now one of the commonest flowers



The siskin

in England. Its small relative, the groundsel, is also in flower here and there. Brown foliage clings to small beech trees, some of the leaves still green at the tip. In damp places the leaves of next year's cow parsley and browned ivy are already coming up. DJM Feather Reports: A Chronicle of Bird Life from the Pages of The Times, by Derwent May, is obtainable post free at the special price of £10.95 from The Times Book Offer FT603, PO Box 345, Falmouth TR11 2YX (tel 0990 134 459, 24 hours).

Latest wills

Josephine Eppert Thorne, of Brampton, Devon, left estate valued at £1,006,902 net. John Trevor Bosc, of London W2, left estate valued at £1,003,308 net. Gordon James Fairbairn Mackay, of London W8, left estate valued at £1,016,017 net. Edith Beryl Alchanson, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £1,014,000 net. Peter John Swales, of Bowdon, Cheshire, left estate valued at £2,295,574 net. Kathleen Mitchell, of Brixworth, Northampton, left estate valued at £1,463,356 net. She left £5,000 to Northampton

Service dinner

104 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers) Major-General M.C.M. Steele, Honorary Colonel 104 Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers), was dined-out on Saturday by Officers at Regent Barracks, Newport. Colonel N.A. Jones, Deputy Commander 160 (Wales) Brigade was among those present.

Antiques & Collectables

Antiques & Collectables: A collection of items for sale, including a silver service, a porcelain vase, and a pair of earrings. Contact: 0171 722 7247.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS: EDWARDS - On 1st December 1996, at home, Charles Edward Edwards, 62, Macmillan, Penbridge, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: ROBERTS - Bryan Clive KCMG QC, beloved husband of Barbara, peacefully at Macmillan, Penbridge, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: MORGAN - Marjorie (née Kettle) on 4th December 1996, at home, Marjorie Morgan, 82, Macmillan, Penbridge, loving mother and devoted wife. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: MASTON - On December 4th 1996, at home, Mervyn Maston, 79, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: HORSFALL - On 5th December 1996, at home, John Horsfall, 79, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: BALLANTINE - Matthew Douglas, 79, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: MORRIS - On 1st December 1996, at home, Morris Morris, 79, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: WALKER - On December 5th, Gordon (Gordon) Walker, 82, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

DEATHS: WATKINS - On 1st December 1996, at home, Watkins Watkins, 79, loving father and devoted husband. A private funeral service will be held at St John's Church, Hyde Park Corner, London W1, on Friday, 13th December 1996 at 3.30pm.

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FOR SALE: MORNING SUITS, DINNER SUITS, EVENING TAIL SUITS. Contact: 0171 247 4122.

SPECIALISTS: WOLF, specialist in all types of... Contact: 0171 247 4122.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: CAPITAL FLIGHTS. Contact: 0171 247 4122.

ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES: A collection of items for sale. Contact: 0171 247 4122.

FOR SALE: 100's of... Contact: 0171 247 4122.

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OBITUARIES

SIR BASIL NIELD

Sir Basil Nield, CBE, Justice of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 1960-78, and MP for Chester 1940-56, died on December 4 aged 93. He was born on May 7, 1903.



The last former Conservative MP to be raised to the High Court bench, and the only such judge to have presided at all the 61 historic assize towns in England and Wales before the assize system was abolished in 1972, Basil Nield had a long and distinguished life of service to the law, politics, the Church and the Army.

The son of Charles Edwin Nield of Upton-by-Chester, a solicitor and district registrar of the Liverpool High Court Registry, Basil Edward Nield was educated at Harrow, of which school he served as a governor, 1961-71, and at Magdalen College, Oxford, before being called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1925.

He entered the chambers in Liverpool of Egerton Stuart Brown and joined the Northern Circuit, where it quickly became obvious that he was destined for success at the Bar. His advocacy was marked by an unflinching courtesy, and he soon became a popular choice among the local solicitors and a well-liked member of the circuit, in which he held such offices as Junior, Messenger and Crier. The latter two are connected with certain time-honoured rituals in the circuit Bar mess; the posts have existed since James Boswell held them in the 18th century. Boswell also served as Junior, bearing the same responsibility that Nield did for keeping the circuit's records.

His practice grew rapidly and later he entered the chambers in Liverpool of David Maxwell Fyfe, later as Lord Kilmuir to become a Tory Lord Chancellor. He and his wife Sylvia became Nield's closest friends. At the age of 42 in 1945 he made a successful application for silk, after which there began to open up

in front of him those appointments and privileges which usually come to a leader who is a sound and accurate advocate with a meticulous regard for the ethical rules of his profession.

He was elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple in 1952, was Recorder of Salford, 1948-56, then Recorder and first permanent judge of the Crown Court of Manchester, 1956-60.

In 1940 he became the Conservative Member of Parliament for Chester, and represented that constituency for 16 unbroken years, during which time he sponsored as a Private Member's Bill the Adoption of Children Act, 1949. He was honorary parliamentary chairman of the Docks and Harbour Authorities Association, a member of the Home Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Treat-

ment of Offenders, a member of the Magistrates' Rules Committee, and vice-president of the National Chamber of Trade and the Graduate Teachers' Association.

In 1938, anticipating as others did the outbreak of war, he had joined the Officers Emergency Reserve, being commissioned into a captain's rank in 1940. In 1941 he served as a major at GHQ MEF, later being on the HQ staffs of East

Africa Force, Abyssinia, Palestine and Syria.

In 1942 he was president of the Palestine Military Courts in Jerusalem, and in 1943 served on HQ staffs in Persia and Iraq as a lieutenant-colonel. He was mentioned in dispatches when serving as Deputy Judge Advocate-General to Middle Eastern Forces. At the time of D-Day, and throughout the advance through France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, he was on the HQ staff of the Second Army.

Halfway through his time on the High Court bench he wrote an entertaining book, *Farewell to the Assizes* (1972) in which he described the changes effected by the Courts Act 1971 in the system of trial by the High Court at Assizes which had existed since the Assize of Clarendon in 1166. The book, he declared in a graceful dedication to her, was written at the instigation of his sister Beryl. (Between brother and sister, there was, as all their friends realised, an unusually close affinity.)

He was extremely proud of his distinction in having sat in all the assize towns, and liked to recount how it had taken him ten years to get to Bury St Edmunds and complete his "full house".

A keen Anglican, he was a member of the Church Assembly Legal Board (1952-56), of the special committee under the Reorganisation Areas measure for the Province of York, and Chancellor of the diocese of Liverpool, 1948-56.

Nield became a JP of the County Palatine of Lancaster in 1956, DL for the County of Chester in 1962, and Freeman of the City of London in 1963. He was appointed MBE (m) in 1943 and advanced to CBE in 1956. But perhaps the mark of recognition which gave him the greatest delight was when he became Treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1977.

His last years were spent at the King Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers at Osborne House in the Isle of Wight. He was unmarried.

EDDIE HARRIS

Eddie Harris, jazz saxophonist and composer, died in Los Angeles on November 5 aged 60. He was born in Chicago on October 20, 1936.



COMMERCIAL success came early to Eddie Harris, when at the age of 25, within a few months of his release from military service, he produced an album based on the theme from Otto Preminger's film *Exodus*. The disc, *Exodus Into Jazz*, sold more than two million copies, and in its wake Harris produced six further albums, paving the way to a successful recording contract with Atlantic during the 1960s and 1970s. This cemented his position in the public imagination as a pure-toned jazz saxophonist who pioneered the electrification of his instrument and successfully created a style of jazz-funk that has since been widely imitated.

Yet Harris had too restless a creative imagination and too inventive a personality to settle for a single style of music. He maintained parallel careers as a conventional tenor saxophonist (touring until recently with a quartet and playing small jazz clubs); as the inventor of a range of hybrid electronic and acoustic instruments; and as a composer of distinction.

To modern ears, his pioneering efforts with the Varitone (a device which processed the sound of the saxophone and allowed Harris to play in octaves with himself) are laughably unsophisticated. But in the late 1960s he was at the cutting edge of technology, and pieces like his *Listen Here* from *The Electrifying Eddie Harris* album, recorded in 1967, reveal a beautifully crafted electric sax solo over a gentle but persistent funk rhythm. His other experiments were more eccentric and included an electronic rhythm box and various brass instruments with reed mouthpieces (and vice versa), none of which caught on.

Harris grew up in Chicago, where he attended the Du

Sable High School, and led his own groups from an early age. Herbie Hancock, four years younger than Harris and still at high school, played in one of these. After gaining experience with the saxophonist Gene Ammons and in a US Army orchestra, Harris returned to Chicago to work as a professional musician.

He composed much that he recorded, and *Freedom Jazz Dance* from a record called *In the Sound* was orchestrated by Gil Evans for a Californian big band in 1966. Later the same year, as a result, Evans's long-term associate Miles Davis recorded the piece with his quintet for the *Miles Smiles* album, establishing Harris as the composer of one of the most enduring standards in modern jazz.

Jazz purists derided Harris for his electronic experiments and for a commercially successful partnership with the pianist Les McCann, which gave him his second million-seller in 1969. Despite his long-term affiliations with creative Chicago musicians such as Muihal Richard Abrams, Harris was criticised for having a "white" tone. "I play in

time and hit my notes right on the head and phrase them properly. Is that what you call white?" he once protested.

His live performances and recordings were so varied that critics seldom agreed on his virtues, although all agreed that he had virtues. When he gave up his funk band because "I was losing all my jazz fans from the Sixties", Harris discovered that he had lost both of his audiences. "I began to see people following my footsteps," he wrote. "It took Miles Davis till 1980 to go funk, meanwhile I'm back straight ahead, starring."

Through hard work and a series of commendable latter-day albums, Harris staved off starvation. London audiences were treated to a visit from him in 1994 when he was reunited with Les McCann. Harris defended his idiosyncratic career, recalling that he had built it on the advice of Billie Holiday whom he knew while she was in decline: "No matter how good you sound, somebody's going to dislike you. No matter how bad you sound, somebody's going to like it. It's what you like that counts."

EDMUND CASWELL

Edmund Caswell, artist, died of cancer on December 1 aged 88. He was born on August 12, 1908.

EDMUND CASWELL could have left no more fitting memorial than the 72ft Peter Pan mural at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Nothing he painted reflected more his warmth and ebullience. He was in his forties when he trained at Hornsey Art School as a painter, and in his final year began the mural that influenced so much of his work. Seven years later, after long building delays, he worked through the night for months to complete it in time to celebrate the passing of the Bill in 1968 which restored the Peter Pan royalties to the hospital for ever.

He was ever the perfectionist, never accepting that he

had finished a work to his satisfaction, always ready to return to it for a fresh look. It was characteristic of him that he returned to Great Ormond Street three years ago and spent seven weeks freshening the colours of his mural in readiness for the reopening of the hospital by the Princess of Wales.

Caswell, great grandson of a Scottish doctor who went to India in the last century, spent his first seven years in Bangalore before the family came to England. At 13 he received a scholarship to Coventry School of Art, but his love of horses took him to agricultural college in Oxford, a degree in animal husbandry and an early career in farming, before he finally studied fine arts.

From 1930, when his wife Henry King organised the celebrations marking Dundee's 800th anniversary, he

lived and worked in Scotland, devoting much of the last two years to Robert Burns. In January this year his 13 pictures based on Tam o' Shanter were exhibited at the Houses of Parliament and one of his drawings was featured in a Burns exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland.

His Victorian-style picture book on Peter Pan was launched at Kirriemuir, J.M. Barrie's birthplace. It has sold more than 80,000 copies and has been translated into five languages. The paintings which illustrated the book were shown at the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh before being presented to Kirriemuir two years ago. Caswell's last painting was of Christ and Mary Magdalene for St Mary Magdalene's Church in Dundee. He is survived by his wife and her four children.

Duby nevertheless was the product of his own background. He was an eminent, if not typical, upholder of a highly influential French tradition which sought to extend the scope of historical analysis from politics and great events to social structures and mentalities. "Social history," he wrote, "is the whole of history." But he also had a unique gift for inhabiting and making real the texture of the periods he evoked.

That talent for vivid evocation, together with a shrewd understanding of modern methods of publicity, helped to give his work unusually broad appeal. A fine and prolific writer, in France he did more than almost anyone else to stimulate popular interest in history. He was a familiar

figure on radio and television, and his books - fastidious and accomplished works of scholarship though they are - were as likely to be found on coffee tables as on library shelves. Translations carried his reputation far beyond France.

Georges Michel Claude Duby was born in Paris, the son of a craftsman who specialised in cleaning and dyeing feathers. He spent his school years in Macon, and preferred the nearby university of Lyons to the highly regarded institutions of the capital. It was as a student there that he switched from geography to history and discovered the work of Lucien Febvre, Marc Bloch and the other historians grouped around the *Journal Annales*.

Both his own training and the ideas of the *Annales* informed his view that "a society, like a landscape, is a system whose structure and development is determined by a multiplicity of factors, [and] that the relations between these factors are not those of cause and effect but of correlations and interference." He wanted, he said, to put himself "inside the skin of the men and women of the Middle Ages".

In 1949 he had completed his doctoral thesis on medieval society in southern Burgundy and was made a junior fellow at Lyons. In 1951, after a brief professorship in Besancon, he moved on to the University of Aix-en-Provence. He would continue to live near by for the rest of his life, even after taking up the chair of history at the Collège de France in Paris from 1970 to 1992, where his lectures drew large and often fashionable crowds.

Among his many French and international honours, he was elected to the Académie Française in June 1987, becoming its first historian member since Fernand Braudel, and was appointed a Commander of the Legion of Honour. He was an associate member of the British Academy.

After an erudite and wide-ranging study of *Rural Economy and Country Life in the Medieval West* (Paris, 1962; London 1968), Duby moved on to a three-volume history of medieval art which included what remains one of his best-known books, *L'Europe des cathédrales*. This was to grow into *Le Temps des cathédrales* (*The Age of the Cathedrals: Art and Society 980-1420*,

GEORGES DUBY



1976), which was adapted for French television with great success.

Art had always been one of Duby's chief interests. A painter himself (and a good friend of the artist Pierre Soulages), he excelled at drawing out the historical implications of form. He was also one of the first historians to take a close interest in the cultural possibilities of the mass media, and was the chairman of France's new "cultural" channel, La Sept (now Arte), in the late 1980s.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident,

and he eventually channelled those narrative skills into the study of precisely those famous "historic events" which he had once done so much to play down in favour of complex, long-term developments.

This change of approach resulted in what many French historians consider his finest book, *Le dimanche de Bouvines* (1973; translated into English as *The Legend of Bouvines*, 1990), an account - part narrative, part analysis - of the crucial battle in July 1214 that strengthened the French monarchy against the Holy Roman Empire.

In addition to his own copious production (some thirty books), Duby was also an active editor, working on histories of rural France, two histories of France (one with Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie), and a *History of Private Life*.

Another ambitious project, undertaken with Michelle Perrot, and with the encouragement of his wife Andrée, herself an historian, was the multivolume *Histoire des Femmes*. As Duby's fellow historian Jacques Le Goff observed, "there was something almost tragic for him in the silence of history about women, and the silence of women in history." His last books were attempts to conjure up the substance of these "elusive existences".

To that task, as ever, he brought the combination of rigour and sympathy, served by a fine prose style, that has inspired French commentators to couple his name with that of the great 19th-century historian Michelet.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1942, and by their son and two daughters.



Church news

Appointments
The Rev Nigel Anstey, Team Vicar, St Francis and St Clare, Ipswich (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) to be Team Vicar, St Luke, Walthamstow (Chelmsford).
The Rev Ian Beckwith, Curate (NSM), Wallingford Team Ministry: to be also LNSM Training Officer for the Berkshire Archdeaconry (Oxford).
Canon Christopher Bryant, Rector, Devises St John and St Mary: to be Master, St Nicholas' Hospital, Salisbury (Salisbury).
The Ven Michael Bucks, Chaplain of The Fleet and Director-General, Naval Chaplaincy Services: to be Team Rector, Shaoson Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Madeline Butman, Curate, Brentford: to be Vicar, St Saviour w St Mary, Cobbold Road (London).
The Rev Derek Burden, Vicar, Wokingham St Sebastian: to

be Priest-in-charge, Woburn (Oxford). The Rev Richard Capper, Vicar, St Faith's, Great Crosby and Area Dean of Bootle (Liverpool): to be Residuary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral (Wakefield).
The Rev Philip Clements, Rector, Priest-in-charge, The Winterton and Stanford: to be also Priest-in-charge, North w South Kilworth and Misterton (Leicester).
The Rev Timothy Codling, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, North Shorebury: to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Tilbury Docks (Chelmsford).
The Rev Shann Conlon, Assistant Curate, St Mary and St Margaret, Castle Bromwich (Birmingham): to be Assistant Curate, Hockertill (St Albans).
The Rev Linda Currell, Assistant Curate, St Mark's, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge

Wells (Rochester): to be Team Vicar, St Stephen's, Walthamstow, in the Team Ministry of St Mary w St Stephen, Walthamstow, and Chaplain to Walthamstow YMCA (Chelmsford).
The Rev Julian Davey, formerly Priest-in-charge, The Winterton and Compton Valence: to be Team Vicar, Marshwood Vale Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Sally Davies, Curate, St Paul's, East Molesey (Guildford): to be Senior Curate, Chalfont St Peter, w special responsibility for All Saints, Oval Way (Oxford).
The Rev Victor Dickinson, Vicar, The Ascension, Kenton (Newcastle): to be Vicar, Ford and Eial and Lowick and Kyloc w Ancoft, same diocese.
The Rev Geoffrey Driver,

Vicar, St Paul's, Glasshoughton: to be full-time Hospital Chaplain for the Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust (Wakefield).
The Rev Jonathan Foster, Chaplain, Chantilly St Peter, France (Europe): to be Vicar, Branksome St Clement (Salisbury).
Canon Murray Haig, Team Rector, Cramlington: to be Priest-in-charge, Alnwick (Newcastle).
The Right Rev Peter Hall, formerly Area Bishop of Woolwich (Southwark): to be Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Birmingham.
The Rev Allsair Heagerty, Chaplain to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (Bristol).
The Rev David Humphrey, Assistant Curate, Thundersley (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, Standon, St Albans (St Albans).

SAVOY THEATRE.

The Gondoliers: or *The King of Barataria*, the new opera by Mr Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, was received on Saturday night with such hearty and unanimous approbation as to make it easy to augur that it will be long before the next of the series is required. If a position among the best of the joint authors' productions be ultimately accorded to the new work, as will probably be the case, it will be due less to any remarkable originality or interest in the plot than to the dialogue, which is in Mr. Gilbert's very best style, and the bright and sparkling music, some of which is quite irresistible in its melodious gaiety, while all is, as usual, spontaneous, refined, and thoroughly characteristic of the composer.

The facts of the story appear to be as follows (we undertake their relation with extreme diffidence): The infant son of the King of Barataria, after being contracted in marriage to the daughter of a Castilian hidalgo, is "changed at

ON THIS DAY

December 9, 1889

This review occupied more than a column and a half with occasional extracts from the libretto, totalling more than 1,700 words, tightly printed.

nurse" for the son of his foster-mother, who at the time when the action of the piece takes place (1750) has become the wife of a highly respectable and old-established brigand, who carries on an extensive practice in the mountains around Cordova. . . . The author has constructed a libretto which even he has rarely surpassed in whimsical absurdity. Mr Gilbert is a privileged person, and none but the most capacious of critics will resent his allowing the Spanish Inquisitor, a functionary who rejoices in

the name of Don Alhambra del Bolero (Mr. W. H. Denny), to reside, to all appearances permanently, in the Ducal Palace at Venice, and there to receive the state visit of an impoverished nobleman, the Duke of Plaza-Toro (Mr. F. Wyatt), who arrives with his Duchess (Miss Brandram), their daughter Casilda (Miss Decima Moore), who will be recognized as Queen of Barataria as soon as the identity of that monarch is established. The entry of these august personages in their pompous but shabby clothes, and the quarter they sing, start the hilarity of the piece, which never flags from that moment. . . . The two scenes are a marvel of stage adaptation, the first representing no less a space than the Piazzetta at Venice. The second, a very pretty scene of Moorish character, does not commit itself to any rash statements concerning the position of Barataria on the map. It is needless to say that with Sir Arthur Sullivan directing affairs the performance went without a hitch, and that the reception could not have been more cordial.

NEWS

I will not be bullied, says Major

John Major told Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the single currency, telling critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries from "cheating" on the entry conditions. Page 1

Stroke of luck for art student

Peri Kemal-Orek, 27, a Turkish Cypriot art student living in London, discovered she had acquired a Frank Auerbach painting for a mere £30. A similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount. Page 1

Heathrow chaos

Heathrow airport was thrown into chaos after the undercarriage of a twin engine commuter plane collapsed on landing, blocking a runway. More than 150 flights were delayed and thousands of passengers were held up throughout Europe. Page 3

Fiancée held

Tracie Andrews, 27, the fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey, was under police guard in hospital after being arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road. Page 3

Laughing until it hurts

Pantomimes are bad for performers' health and can lead to hernias and other injuries, say doctors. Page 5

Shopping spree

Shops were counting record takings after Britain went on the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade. Page 6

Anglicans ahead

Sunday attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in living memory. Figures for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will nose ahead by about 1,000. Page 7

Ninth food death

A ninth pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic which is now affecting 386 people. Page 7

Rich pickings without cooking books

Britain's leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multi-millionaires. In a nation apparently obsessed with food, yet increasingly incapable of cooking it, the chef is king, and coining it in. Media exposure enjoyed by chefs is now reaching ridiculous proportions, with some 30 cookery programmes regularly on terrestrial television alone. Page 5

Ratty in peril

The water vole - which found fame as Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows* - is one of 600 species of flora and fauna in danger of disappearing from the countryside. Page 8

Falklands fears

Falkland islanders celebrating the anniversary of a 1914 British Naval victory are wondering whether they will have to fight a new battle with a British Labour government. Page 9

Welfare cut

President Clinton has claimed credit for a fall of 2.1 million in the number of people receiving welfare since he took office four years ago, in a move which will reignite controversy over welfare reforms. Page 10

Human bones traded

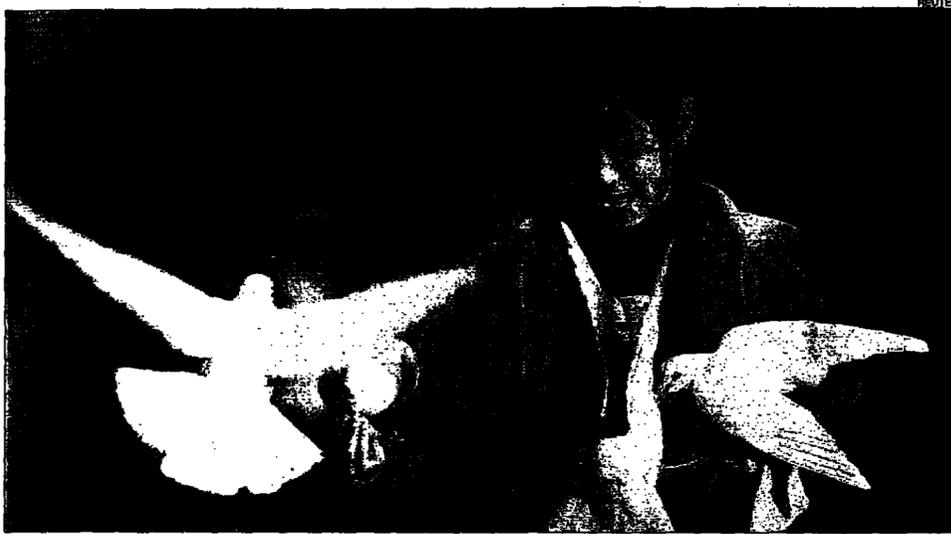
The people of Afghanistan are so desperate under Taliban rule they are selling human bones in the alleys of Kabul. Page 11

UN battle

Four African candidates have been named by their countries to succeed Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary General of the United Nations. Page 12

Belgrade stand-off

Serbian opposition groups prepared for fresh confrontations after the supreme court rejected claims that President Milosevic rigged local elections. Page 13



A girl feeds doves of peace at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo at the weekend on the 55th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor

Bank pay-out

Creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which collapsed in 1991 with debts of \$10 billion, will see their first compensation payments. They are due to get about a quarter of their losses back initially. Page 48

Social cost

The chairman of America's Federal Reserve Bank says the US social security system is heading for bankruptcy if taxes are not raised or benefits cut. Page 46

Day job

Tiger Woods, the most promising young golfer for decades, is set to take a financial stake in Planet Hollywood. Page 48

Quick pint

Plans to introduce a technique that allows lager to be created within hours have failed to find favour. Page 48

Bragg writes

Melvyn Bragg on why the National Lottery handouts have dented Mrs Bottomley's popularity. Page 18

Opera high

Plácido Domingo gives a one-off performance as Siegmund in *Walküre*, in a fundraising gala for Covent Garden that provided one of the most thrilling evenings of them all. Page 18

Rock on

Against all the odds, The Who revive their 1973 masterpiece *Quadrophonia* live at Earl's Court, proving there is plenty of life left in these rock dinosaurs. Page 19

Pop favourite

Beck Hansen, the American singer-songwriter even the stars love to love. Page 19

Bunny man

With his serious swinging days behind him, Playboy founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times. Page 15

Social animal

Styiness is more likely to be learnt or foisted on us than inbred. Page 16

Jeffrey Bernard

"Some of the very best parties are accidental and are borne of good friends simply meeting for a drink." Page 17

Noah's flood

The American geologists who think they can prove the biblical flood took place. Page 14

Nigel Hawkes

People with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds. Page 14

Football

West Ham staged a remarkable comeback, scoring twice in the last 12 minutes, to draw 2-2 with Manchester United. Page 25

Cricket

England began the long climb back towards respectability with a 59-run victory over Zimbabwe, the first win in four matches on the tour of Zimbabwe. Page 27

Rugby union

Freed from the constraints imposed by internationals, the Australians showed that they were capable of playing with great freedom as well as discipline in their comfortable victory over the Barbarians. Page 35

Tennis

Tim Henman has gained more than just money from his run to the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich. Although he was beaten by Boris Becker, Henman showed he is more than capable of competing with the game's leading players. Page 26

Football

Bobby Robson, the former England manager now in charge of Barcelona, suffered the first significant setback of his reign when his team were beaten 2-0 by Real Madrid. Page 31

IN THE TIMES

ARTS

The absorbing world of Howard Hodgkin goes on show at the Hayward Gallery

LAW

Should Britain incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights?



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,346

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25. The grid is a standard crossword format with black squares indicating non-letter positions.

Answers to the crossword puzzle. Includes sections for ACROSS (1-25) and DOWN (1-25). For example, 1 Across: Policeman, given information, runs in tiled woman (8).

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with columns for UK Roads, H2S and Link Roads, National Motorways, Commercial Europe, Channel crossing, Motorway to Heathrow & Gatwick airports.

Weather by Fax

Table with columns for Fax, Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax, Fax number, and Fax (index page).

World City Weather

Table with columns for City, Country, and Weather conditions for various global cities.

Motorway

Table with columns for Motorway, Europe Country by Country, and Motorway details.

Car reports by fax

Table with columns for Car, Make, Model, and Price for various car models.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with columns for Sun rises, Sun sets, Moon sets, and Moon rises for various locations.

New moon tomorrow

Table with columns for Location, Time, and Date for the new moon.

General: England and Wales

England and Wales should stay mostly dry but dull with widespread mist and fog, slow to clear from many central parts.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with patchy light rain which is expected to peter out later.

London, SE England, E Anglia

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N: dull and foggy, the fog slow to lift in many places.

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man: foggy but cloudy except the west. Wind southerly, light to moderate.

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow: cloudy with occasional light rain later. Wind south or southwesterly, moderate.

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: occasional rain clearing and becoming brighter. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh.

Outlook: the north will be cloudy but

Outlook: the north will be cloudy but mostly dry, fog dispersing in the south.

Forecast

Forecast table with columns for City, Wind, Rain, Sun, and Max/Min temperatures for various cities.

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TESTINGS

Preview: Startling footage of the effects of shell shock on British soldiers is shown publicly for the first time. 1914-18: *Mutiny* (BBC2 7pm). Review: Matthew Bond loses count of Moll Flanders's vital statistics. Page 47

Dangerous expansion

Western governments may once have believed that Nato enlargement would be a force for European stability. There is barely a politician, let alone a senior military commander, who believes that now. Page 21

Questions unanswered

The Prime Minister's statements on Europe were scattered with inconsistencies... He seems unable to see that the single currency involves matters of principle, as well as calculations about temporary economic interests. Page 21

Heroes with hernias

A new form of industrial injury: pantomime-hernia. Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

The Tory tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to Margaret Thatcher. There is an unwitting yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it. Page 20

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

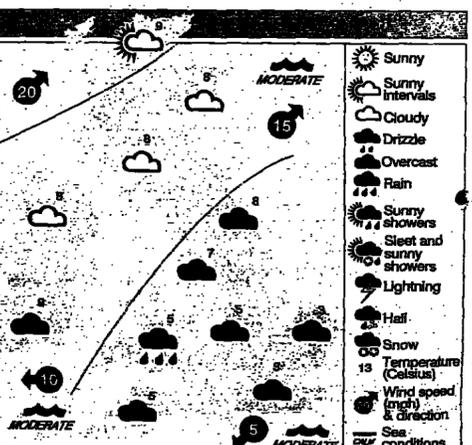
Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out of a single currency, which in substance he has already taken. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

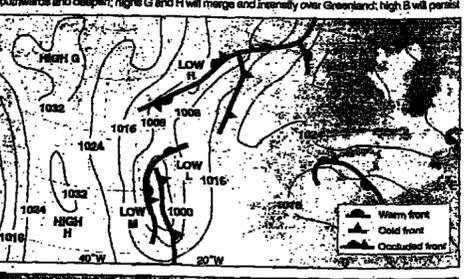
Elections are seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign. Page 20

Sir Basil Nield, former High Court judge and Conservative MP; Georges Daby, French historian; Edmund Caswell, painter; Eddie Harris, jazz saxophonist. Page 23

Joining the single currency; Edward VIII - folly or treason? Gibraltar's sovereignty. Page 21



Changes to the chart below from noon: low H will move east and (R) lows L and M will sink southwards and deeper; High G and H will merge and intensify over Greenland; high B will persist



Copyright reserved. All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Table with columns for City, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists various cities and their weather forecasts for the day.

Copyright reserved. All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the name 'Dicks' and other text, partially cut off.

TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT

REAL TROUBLE FOR ROBSON
Barcelona brought to earth in Madrid
PAGE 31

THE ICEMEN COMETH
Nottingham triumph
PAGE 33

HOMETOWN HERO
Becker proves too strong for all-comers
PAGE 26

HIT THE ROAD BRIAN
Lara faces the music in Sydney
PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

UNITED LOSE TWO POINTS AS SCHMEICHEL LOSES HIS HEAD

Dicks delivers great hammer blow

West Ham United 2
Manchester United 2

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE QUEST for the European Cup continues to be a considerable weight around Manchester United's neck, affecting their ability to concentrate on the FA Cup Premier League, to produce consistent performances that might threaten Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle United and, bless them, Wimbledon.

At Upton Park yesterday, they allowed West Ham United to embarrass them for imagination, movement and ideas. Yet, fortuitously — to use the word of admission from Alex Ferguson, the manager — United went two up and then, thinking the task was finished, they allowed West Ham to come back with two goals in 90 seconds, and force Schmeichel to save the game for United in the dying moments.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was relieved to have won a point. Ferguson was simply livid. He accepted his team's luck and described his side's performance, very accurately, as "very poor, very ragged, tired". However, when the United manager abruptly walked out of the press conference, I

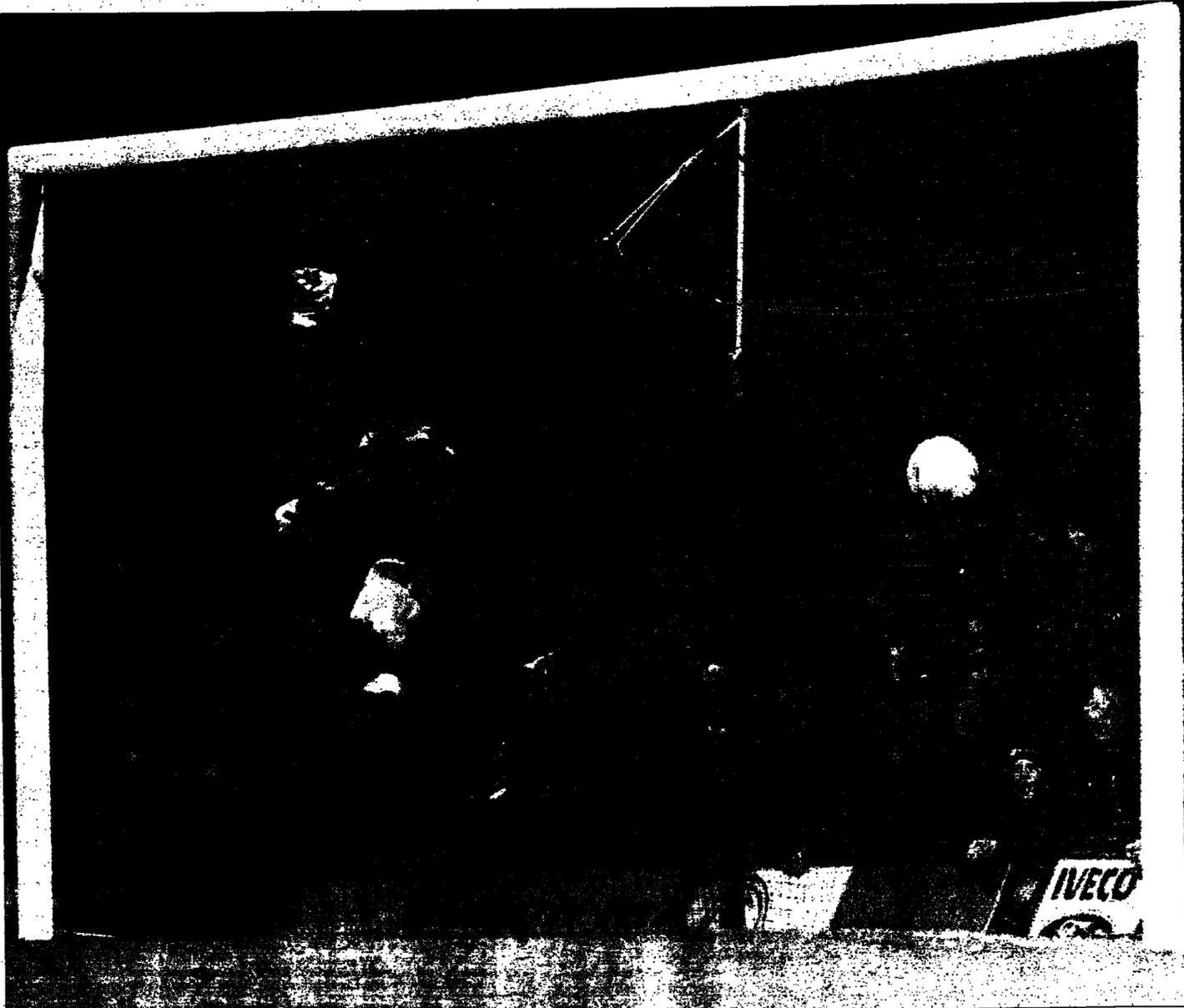
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	18	35
Wimbledon	16	9	4	3	23	17	31
Liverpool	16	9	4	3	26	14	31
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Newcastle	15	9	2	4	25	17	29
Man Utd	16	7	6	3	31	24	27
Chelsea	16	6	7	3	25	23	25

suspect his sensitive mood was as much to do with seeing that his reserves are thin, that Poborsky, purchased for more than £3 million, will probably never have the physical commitment — let us call it courage — to match his tricky feet.

It was just after the half-hour that the Czech Republic international, seeing Dicks, that whole-hearted West Ham captain, coming towards him, showed his colours. The yellow card had been issued for something as dubious as an involuntary handball earlier on, and when an international performer jumps out of the way at more than a yard distance from man and ball, one wonders about a disreputable charge.

Seriously, this game asked real questions of Manchester United's Premiership pedigree. If United had produced something of a waltz against Rapid Vienna in midweek, this was more of a dog-dance, and Ferguson was justified in suggesting that Beckham, though he was to score a mercurial goal, is showing signs of physical fatigue.

There are foreign elements in the English game who need, drastically, to prove their consistency and commitment. Dumitrescu is certainly one. Yet in the 22nd minute, he transgressed the skill on offer and showed that United were there for the beating. He darted into the box, eluding Pallister and drove in a low shot that skimmed beyond the far post. When Dumitrescu approached from the left, his trickery brought a handball in the area from McClair. Peter Jones, the referee, generously concluded that it was ball-to-hand, and gave McClair a huge benefit of the



Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, fails to stop Dicks's fearsomely struck penalty that earned West Ham a point at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

doubt. In another way, Jones, was as lenient with Bilic. The Croatia defender, who possibly should not have started the game as he was unwell, fouled Giggs in the nineteenth minute, and committed a vicious late tackle on Beckham in the 31st. The card shown was yellow.

Not until the brink of half-time did United threaten and then Solskjaer was denied only by a reflex save from Miklosko. Solskjaer, United's leading goalscorer, had not scored away from Old Trafford since his transfer

from Norway. The 53rd minute changed that.

The anonymous Cantona suddenly showed his quality. Sporting four West Ham defenders, in a line, were thinking of the offside trap, he hesitated for an instant and then produced a penetrating through ball. Solskjaer timed his run perfectly and, from 12 yards, drove the ball past Miklosko, who could only deflect its course into the net.

Dumitrescu retaliated by stepping past two United defenders, but again shot wide of the far post.

In the 75th minute, though, United surpassed what had gone before. Cantona, making his second glowing contribution, wheeled 180 degrees with the ball, bemusing Moncur. From him to Irwin, to Beckham, to the substitute, Philip Neville, and back to Beckham, the ball travelled. Then England's young hope struck a shot from the edge of the penalty box, right-footed and with little back-lift, that caressed the inside of a post before nestling in the net.

All over? Redknapp and Ferguson agreed that it was, but, in a

rousing reprisal, West Ham rescued the game. Raducioiu easily by-passed Johnsen, and gave Schmeichel not a ghost of a chance to prevent his right-foot shot from entering the far side of the goal.

That was the 77th minute; by the 79th the game, more than deservedly, was squared. This time, Dumitrescu prompted the move with a pass down the inside-left channel. Hughes anticipated it and Schmeichel, reckless in the extreme, came out and flattened him. Schmeichel, inevitably, railed against the penalty award; the

looks that Pallister gave him, the words with which Ferguson admitted where blame lay, condemned the goalkeeper's rashness. Up strode Dicks to give the ball the old West Ham hammer.

It was too much joy for 200 West Ham supporters to contain. They spilled, momentarily, onto the pitch, an invasion that did not come to much once Dicks had used his renowned eloquence to dispel them. On with the finale and Schmeichel saved dramatically from Hughes and from Dumitrescu.

"An absolute giveaway," Ferguson moaned afterwards. "We just can't keep on giving goals like that away."

WEST HAM (4-4-1-1): L Miklosko — M Bowen, S Blic (sub S Potts 71min), M Rapson, J Dicks, — M Hughes, J Moncur, I Schopp, A Rowland (sub F Raducioiu, 63) — I Dumitrescu — I Dove.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — R Johnson, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — K Poborsky (sub P Neville, 55), D Beckham, E Izziak, R Giggis — E Cantona — O G Solskjaer. Referee: P Jones.

Liverpool suffer, page 28
Forceful Ferguson, page 29
Results and tables, page 30
Robson under threat, page 31

Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly
(and send your Granny a poinsettia).

Send the gift of flowers this Christmas. Order direct by phone or at any florist where you see the Dove logo.

TELEFLORIST
0800 111 800

Castle besieged by Fleming's conflicting opinions

For one man, the rise and rise of Tim Henman was beginning to get just a little bit annoying. That man was Andrew Castle, anchorman of BSkyB's tennis coverage and already destined to be a far better broadcaster than he was a tennis player. That is he will be — just as soon as he stops torturing himself with dreams of what might have been.

For once on Thursday afternoon, after Henman had dispatched MaliVai Washington, Castle and his studio guest, Peter Fleming, were in agreement — British men's tennis was improving. Why had it taken so long, Castle moaned? "What's so annoying is that there are a lot of people whose talent was wasted by the mediocre help they received." Fleming was all wide-eyed innocence. "Really Andrew — and who might they be?"

All week Castle and Fleming had been going at it like Ivanisevic and Kafelnikov in the less-watched semi-final on Saturday. Were they being serious or was it all just a bit of fun at our expense? Either way it made excellent television — Castle and Fleming that is. Both are good-looking and both are impressively articulate on screen, but there the similarities end. Apart from the renaissance of British tennis, they agree about nothing.

"Well, well, well," Castle enthused after the win on Thursday — we really do have something to cheer about. Don't we, Peter? "I don't agree. Andrew. That was just another run-of-the-mill match for Tim. I hope people don't make too much of it because that's who Tim Henman has become now." All those late nights with Sue Barker (please, Wimbledon highlights only)



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

paid off as he turned to face the camera for maximum effect. "So just snap out of it. The sooner everyone realises that this guy's a player ... the better." Just for a second the unflappable Castle looked a trifle flapped. Studio guests are not supposed to behave like that.

It was even worse on Saturday, after Henman had succumbed to Boris Becker and the Union Jack-waving partnership of Gerald Williams and Bill Threlfall had handed back to the studio. Castle began

again. "I think today we have discovered the limitations to Tim's game," Fleming did not agree. "I think Tim's game was perfectly fine." He thought it was Henman's mind that needed to take a step up. Castle tried yet again: "But there's a gulf in class isn't there? Fleming did not agree with the word 'gulf'. Well, what about Henman's ground strokes. Castle railed, surely they were no match for Becker's? Wrong again. "In a year's time everyone will be saying that Tim Henman's

ground strokes are better than Boris Becker's." In desperation, Castle turned to metaphor. "Henman was a whipper to Becker's rotweiler, wasn't he?"

This time Fleming's pregnant pause was too much. "Does it pain you so very much," Castle wailed, "ever to agree with me." Fleming delivered his deadpan answer. "Yes, it does actually." Game and certainly first set to the American, but I look forward to battle being rejoined the next time. Sky has some decent tennis to show. I fear, however, we may have to wait a while to beat a week that began with extended live coverage of the Davis Cup final and ended — at least for most people — with a British player making it to the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

In the commentary-box, Williams

and Threlfall lent their old BBC authority to proceedings, with Williams's tendency to over-sentimentalise (remember Wimbledon before Sue Barker) minimised by the simple expedient of keeping him off-screen. Some superb pictures were provided by ISPR, the rights holder and host broadcaster. Although its camera operators' pursuit of a pretty face was occasionally distracting (the Munich crowd spend most of the time staring upwards trying to catch themselves on monitors, the super-slow motion replays of line calls and even foot faults were extraordinarily precise).

The BBC already has the technology to provide similar facilities for its Wimbledon coverage. All that is required is the consent of the All England Club and flying chalk could be a thing of the past. I'm serious.

GOLF

McNulty hangs on to achieve fourth win

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARK McNULTY preserved his four-shot overnight lead to win the Zimbabwe Open from Nick Price, his fellow Zimbabwean, and Justin Hobbday, of South Africa, in Harare yesterday.

McNulty, 43, repeated his 1992 success in the tournament with a closing round of 69 at the Chapman Golf Club, for an 18-under-par total of 270.

McNulty's victory was his fourth of the year, after European Tour wins in the Dimension-Data tournament in South Africa, the Dutch Open and the Volvo Masters. He said: "It's always nice to win four in a year, and obviously it's a great feeling to win here in Zimbabwe again."

Price, who struggled all week with his putting, recorded a closing 68 to share second place with Hobbday on 274.

"My biggest problem this week has been reading the greens," Price, the former world No 1, said. "My first six putts were all good ones and I didn't make one. I could have been five-under after the first seven holes the way I was playing, but I just couldn't get close to apply the pressure."

Hobbday returned the best round of the day, with five birdies in a 67, but having got to 13-under at the 11th, he was unable to apply any further pressure on McNulty, who always led by at least four shots.

Bill Longmuir, of Scotland, shot a final round three-under-par 67 to finish joint second with Scott Hoch, of the United States, in the Hong Kong Open. They were four strokes adrift of the winner, Rodrigo Cuello, of the Philippines, who finished with a 70 for a 15-under-par total of 275.

Michael Long became the first home player in four years to win the New Zealand Open after firing a final round four-under-par 67 at Paraparatumu Beach. Long, with a four-round total of 275, finished four strokes ahead of defending champion, Peter O'Malley, of Australia.

O'Malley shot a 66 in the final round to take second place, by one shot, ahead of his compatriot, Shane Tait.

TENNIS: BUOYANT GERMAN SECURES GRAND SLAM CUP

Becker serves notice of return to form

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

THE year has ended much too early for Boris Becker. Yesterday he rounded off his season with a near-perfect display of tennis to beat Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Having reached such a peak, he now has nowhere to go until next month, when the new season starts and he goes to defend his Australian Open title.

It has been a frustrating 12 months for Becker. Just when he had returned to the type of form that lifted him to the No 1 spot in the world rankings, he picked up a virus infection that kept him out for three months. He had to miss the French Open with a torn thigh muscle and then, fit again in time for Queen's, he injured his wrist during Wimbledon and had to miss the next 2½ months. Now aged 29, time is running out for Becker if he is to get his wish and win one more Wimbledon title.

With Becker, anything is possible once he puts his mind to it. Facing the fiercest service on the men's circuit, he gave Ivanisevic a taste of his own medicine. He conceded just 15 points on his own service and seven of those were gifts in the form of double faults. Never did Ivanisevic have a chance to threaten Becker and in return Becker was reading Ivanisevic's every move.

The day before Ivanisevic had served 42 aces in his five-set defeat

of Yevgeny Kafelnikov, but by Sunday the well was all but dry. Managing only a paltry 12 thunderbolts, he ran out of ideas as Becker brushed him aside. "Usually when I have lost to him before, and lost easily, I at least had chances to break but not today," he said.

With two such big servers facing each other on a fast indoor court, rallies are at a premium: serve, return and maybe a volley is about all about the crowd is going to get. In all departments, Becker was the

ended up in the final. The \$812,500 (about £500,000) he won as runner-up came as an unexpected bonus.

With that in mind, he was not too upset by the defeat. Becker at his peak is a frightening prospect for anyone. "I think he is playing his best tennis ever," Ivanisevic said. "In my opinion he is faster, he's moving better and he's playing much better. He realised that if he wants to stay at the top he has to go one step better and he did it. He's playing unbelievable tennis."

With the rest of the top players complaining that their year is too long, that they are too tired, Becker faces a different problem as he tries to maintain his fitness and form while the rest of the world puts its feet up for Christmas. He admits that it is a lot easier to contemplate the new year when he is playing so well, but having come so far and with the goal of another grand slam so important to him, a festive season with the family Becker could involve a lot of hard work.

"You have to improve each year, almost each month, because the competition is learning," he said. "Players are going to read my game and I have to find new ways to surprise them. I will go to Australia as the defending champion and everyone is going to hunt me. But I've managed before to step up when the pressure was the most — hopefully I can do it again."

RESULTS
SEMI-FINALS: B Becker (Ger) bt T Henman (GB) 7-6, 6-3, 6-1; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 6-7, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4
FINAL: Becker bt Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4

better player and on the odd occasion when some tennis did break out, Becker tended to win from the baseline, too. Before the end of the first set Ivanisevic was beginning to grumble and mutter and by the time he reached the third set he knew he was well beaten.

Still, the week had not been too bad an experience for Ivanisevic. He was planning to pull out of the tournament on Monday. Feeling ill, he went looking for the tournament referee to withdraw but never found him. A good night's sleep later, he thought he might give it a go and



Becker raises his arms to acknowledge the crowd after beating Ivanisevic in Munich yesterday

Henman savours valuable reward

Alix Ramsay believes Britain's No 1 player is richer for experience of defeat by Becker

THE last few days in Germany have been a lucrative time for Tim Henman. On Saturday, he earned another \$431,250 (about £266,000) to add to his already bulging bank account by losing to Boris Becker 7-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the semi-final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Although it took his annual earnings to a healthy \$853,247, the 1hr 50min he spent on court with Becker gave him something more valuable than any pay cheque, the knowledge that he can hold his own with the top players.

It was the first time Henman had been in such a situation — taking on the world No 6 in his own backyard — and, for a set and a half, he gave Becker a run for his money. Most people would have forgiven Henman for showing signs of stage-fright in front of an 11,000-strong German crowd, but the young man from Oxford was coolness itself. He started as he meant to go on, standing toe-to-toe with Becker, matching him ace-for-ace and having the temerity to threaten the famous Becker service.

Yet the gap between the top men and the young pretenders is a hard one to bridge and when it came to the key points in the first set tie-break, Henman did not have the power or experience to counter a player who has won six grand-slam titles in the past 12 years. "For the first set and a half, I was still hanging in there trying to create chances," he said, "but, at the end of the day, I think he's better than me. That's the bottom line."

Nevertheless, Becker was impressed with his opponent. "You improve by playing," he said. "He's only been on the circuit for two years and already he's come a long way. Who knows how far he will go. He has a great first serve, he's got good hands and he comes up with some surprising shots sometimes. All in all, he's a player with a good future."

Henman, for his part, knows exactly what he has to

do if he is to climb up the world rankings from his present position of No 29. "There's a lot to be gained from a week like this," he said. "Boris definitely takes some beating, but it's a consistency thing. When I'm playing my best tennis, I'm able to stay with someone of his calibre, but it is his consistency — he's able to keep playing like that for four or five sets. At the moment, I probably couldn't do that."

When Henman will have time to spend some of his newfound wealth is open to question. He has only a few days



Henman: improving

off before the preparations start in earnest for the first tournament of the year in Doha and, from there, it is on to the Australian Open.

Much of that time will be spent in the gym as he tries to strengthen his slender frame. Standing 6ft 1in and 11st 1lb, he knows he needs to be stronger. On Saturday, the sheer power of Becker, added to the years of dealing with the pressure points in pressure matches, made the difference.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed," Henman said, "but there a lot of positives to take away from this and the experience I have gained from playing some of the best will stand me in good stead."

AAA to withhold financial support

THE AAA of England decided at its annual meeting on Saturday to resist offering financial assistance to the British Athletic Federation (BAF), despite having resources of £1.8 million (David Powell writes). The BAF has lost £750,000 in the past two years. "We do not want to pour money into the black hole that is the BAF," Eric Shirley, a delegate, said. "If there is money to spare it should go to our regions, where 100 per cent will be spent on athletics."

Geoff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, expressed concern over a new television contract. "We have been unable to find out if this includes the AAA championship. There have been suggestions that only BAF championships will be included. If so, we shall try to obtain our own sponsor and TV contract."

Cook finishes first

ATHLETICS: Stephanie Cook, a final year medical student at Oxford, who won the women's University cross-country race on Wimbledon Common, only took up running when injury stopped her rowing. Cook is now concentrating on modern pentathlon. She is in the national squad but admits it will be hard to fit in training, and her ambition to reach the Sydney Olympics, with her opening two years as a doctor. The Dark Blues took all the team honours, winning the women's race, men's race — to level the series at 53 victories each — and Old Blues race.

Doncaster step down

FOOTBALL: Croydon moved above Doncaster Belles on goal difference in the Women's Premier National League after a 1-1 draw at Everton. Doncaster lost 3-2 at Arsenal in a pulsating match. The Belles went 2-0 up, through Vicky Exley and Karen Walker, before a second-half revival by Arsenal, who remain unbeaten, brought goals for Joanne Broadhurst, Kara-Lee Reynolds and Marieanne Spacey.

Sussex fall short

LACROSSE: Hertfordshire, skippered by the England captain, Lois Richardson, became the women's All-England Counties champions for the first time in ten years when they defeated Sussex 3-0 in the final at Newbury on Saturday. Hertfordshire had been Berkshire in the semi-finals, while Sussex edged out Surrey in the final four as they reached the All-England finals for the first time.

Male captures title

RACKETS: James Male, the world champion, underlined his dominance with a hard-fought victory over the former world champion, Willie Boone, to take the Lacoste British amateur championship. Male, 32, who had survived a hard-hitting struggle in his semi-final to defeat Guy Barker, eventually emerged the winner, 4-15, 15-11, 17-14, 15-10.

Hendry pockets award

SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, pocketed another top award last night when he was selected as the BBC Scotland Sports Personality of the Year, an award he won in 1989. Hendry made it a double as he was also named in the Team of the Year, with Alan McManus and John Higgins, his fellow World Cup players.

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Australia
England

FOOTBALL: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY EXPOSE FAILINGS OF ANFIELD TITLE HOPEFULS AS WIMBLEDON'S CHALLENGE GATHERS PACE

Liverpool lose marks in test of potential

Liverpool 0
Sheffield Wednesday 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

IF THERE is a defining image of this match, it is of Steve McManaman, arm raised in futile demand of the ball. He was man-marked, with Peter Atherton the celebrity stalker, but that is routine for the Liverpool forward. Shadow or not, he still pleads for service. On this occasion, he did not get it.

Much was made of Sheffield Wednesday's use of their captain to contain the England international, but that rather missed the point. It was not that McManaman was subdued, but rather the supply lines to him. McManaman showed that, even with sparse service, he could still be dangerous, and yet his teammates seemed incapable of getting the ball to him.

"We didn't play with our heads, we did not play intelligent football," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "Steve McManaman was man-marked, yet he still had chances when he got the ball. But if we don't get the ball to him early, if we don't pass the ball with sharpness, then we will have problems, and that's what happened."

The match was a tactical success for David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, but not for something as simplistic as man-marking a danger-man. Four times Liverpool managed to get the ball to McManaman in the first half, with Atherton behind, and four times he was fouled. Eventually, a yellow card arrived. Another ball, another foul, and a red would have followed.

It did not, because Pleat's masterplan was not simply to shadow McManaman, but also to swamp Barnes and Thomas. Such was the industry of Hyde, Pembroke and Whittingham that the Liver-

pool midfield barely saw the ball, let alone possession enough to craft the bullets for the forwards to fire.

Evans talked of finding alternatives under such circumstances, but if Liverpool have a weakness, it is here. McAteer and Bjornebye were imprecise on the flanks, and the three central defenders simply not comfortable enough on the ball. If the midfield is shackled, the wing back formation is designed to allow the sweeper to step up with the ball to create options. It does not work when, like Ruddock, the sweeper simply kicks long balls down the field.

Put simply, Wednesday snapped and snarled in their terrier-like pursuit of the game, to such an extent that they forced the home side into mistakes that cost them the match. Indeed, the only surprise in a first half that Wednesday dominated was that they did not score more. Booth headed over and Pembroke blasted wide within the first two minutes, then Nicol almost crowned an impressive return to his former club with a near-post shot that James dived out. Pembroke again volleyed wide, before he showed that his inaccurate shooting does have its uses.

After 21 minutes, McAteer, searching for McManaman, again gave the ball away to Atherton, who found Pembroke. His shot was woeful, but was mis-hit to such an extent that it found Whittingham, lurking towards the right edge of the penalty area, and his first-time stab found the net via the goalkeeper and post.

Only then did Liverpool look interested, but, as Evans said: "We can't afford to start playing when a third of the game has already gone." What little they did create came through McManaman, who forced an error from Pressman, only for the goalkeeper to atone with a fine



Atherton, right, the Wednesday defender who so effectively marked McManaman, briefly turns his attentions to thwarting Thomas

save from Fowler after McAteer had hit the post. McManaman found the woodwork himself in the second half with a soaring header, and Pressman saved well from Fowler, again, and Berger. In truth, though, Liverpool's casual arrogance, throughout a first half that

they apparently thought was theirs by right, denied them the claim of injustice. Wednesday move up to ninth in the FA Carling Premiership, but they are still a side in the making, more comfortable on afternoons like this, when they can frustrate and pick up the scraps rather

than take the responsibility of forcing the creative pace. To go higher, they will need more guile in midfield, and a more convincing presence alongside the willing Booth. Does any team want to win the title? It appears that Liverpool do not, such is their poor home form. Two points from

the last nine hardly suggests championship material, but the similar reluctance of their chief rivals offers some consolation. Throughout the match, a percussion section among the Wednesday supporters banged out a mesmeric beat. Such a rhythm, to their passing, is what Liverpool must

rediscover if they are to be champions. LIVERPOOL (0-0-1-1): D. James — M. Wright, M. Ruddock, P. Booth (sub: M. Kennedy, 68min) — J. McAteer, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, P. Berger, S. Bjornebye — S. McManaman — R. Fowler. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-1-3-1-1): K. Pressman — J. Nicol, D. Walker, D. Sidorovic, G. Nicol — P. Atherton, Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pembroke — B. Carbone (sub: R. Barker, 78) — A. Booth. Referee: M. Reed

Kinnear keeping his dream alive

Sunderland 1
Wimbledon 3

By MARK HODKINSON

THE question was simple enough but, for a second, Joe Kinnear's honest blue eyes iced over and not a word was spoken. Caught dreaming, he hurriedly summoned cliché and ambiguity to hide his apoplexy — an excusable reaction, surely, since the question had never been asked before: could Wimbledon win the FA Carling Premiership?

"We'll take each game as it comes," he muttered on Saturday. "I don't want to put extra pressure on the lads. All I can say is that it has taken me seven years to put this squad together, and if we can stay injury-free and we're still in this position with six or seven games to go, we are going to be as hard to beat as anyone."

The subtext was manifest, despite the linguistic fog. Kinnear believes that Wimbledon can win the league. And why not? His team is second only to Arsenal, is unbeaten in 18 matches and, most significant, is playing a mature, confident brand of football.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, suggested that it was "men against boys", and while this slightly overstated the disparity, Wimbledon's cunning and ruthlessness was beyond the ken of blood-and-thunder Sunderland.

Reid's team works at one pace, an extremely fast one with which rudiments such as passing and dribbling are merely coincidental. Sunderland attempt to draw the air from the match until, more by effort than design, opponents end up gasping for breath, wondering how the ball ended up in their net. Wimbledon were, in effect, playing against the ghosts of their former selves.

These days, however, in players such as Leonhardsen, Earle and Ekoku, they have statesmen able to rise above ignoble physical squabbles. They stepped gracefully through the blur of tackles, their minds and feet always two seconds in front of their earnest pursuers.

Wimbledon's intelligent approach was apparent throughout. They had clearly passed a watchful eye over their opponents. Perez, quite rightly, was earmarked as being perturbed, by players in close proximity.

Robson feels heat 31
Woking wonders 31
Fry survives 31

so, at every free kick and corner, Blackwell contested the six-yard area.

The first goal came from Ekoku's forehead smash after some head tennis in the Sunderland penalty area. The same player added a second with a crisp shot from a fine pass by Gayle. Sunderland's first shot came when Raetested Sullivan from distance ten minutes before half-time.

Sunderland courted hope briefly when Melville headed in direct from a corner but, five minutes later, Ekoku embarked on a slalom run between defenders, the ball ricocheting to Holdsworth, who curled it adroitly past Perez.

"We're going to win the league," the clutch of Wimbledon supporters sang, while Sam Hammam, the club's owner, hugged every player as they left the pitch. In contrast, there were grumbles from the Sunderland supporters. Although unequivocally beaten by the better team, they were right to ponder why Reid had played just one striker, Russell, and left the club's best player, Bridges, on the substitutes' bench until nearly an hour had elapsed.

Reid was not hiding his respect for Wimbledon. "They deserved the victory," he said. "They are very well organised. I am hoping my lads will see it as a lesson learnt. I am not going to go raving mad at the lads after one defeat against a very good team."

Kinnear cheerfully accepted every after-match request for an interview. The same simple question was asked repeatedly. His eyes began to twinkle again, the smile grew broader. Wimbledon, just 19 years on from their Football League debut — a 3-3 draw with Halifax Town, — are set for a Premiership title challenge. The dream goes on.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): L. Pearce — D. Blackwell, A. Melville, R. Carr, M. Scott, M. Kelly (sub: M. Bridges, 50min), P. Blackwood, K. Bell, M. Smith, A. Frazer (sub: M. Gray, 81). C. Russell. WIMBLEDON (4-3-1-3): M. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Knibbe — R. Earle (sub: M. Harford, 75), M. Jones, M. Buckley — G. Lushington, M. Gayle (sub: D. Holdsworth, 78), E. Ekoku. Referee: K. Barge.

Iversen receives highest praise

Coventry City 1
Tottenham Hotspur 2

By IVO TENNANT

COMPARISONS may be odious, but they are also inevitable. Upon arrival at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground last week, Steffen Iversen, their new forward from Norway, signed for £2.5 million, was asked which number he would like to have emblazoned on his shirt. Unwittingly, but much to his pleasure, he opted for the talismanic figure of 18, once worn with distinction by Jürgen Klinsmann.

The comparisons did not end there. Indeed, they were carried on by Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, long after this well-merited victory. Iversen, he reckoned, not only looks like Klinsmann but plays like him, too. "He has two good feet, pace, ability in the air, gives Teddy Sheringham more space and I have seen him score lots of excellent goals in Europe."

By the time Francis had finished this giddy discourse, he had made you believe Iversen was a world-beater. There is, though, the sort of burden of expectation. Not many footballers from overseas have been, or will be, as successful as Klinsmann. Against Coventry City, having met his colleagues only the previous day, Iversen was given the ball all too infrequently.

However, he played a memorable part in Tottenham's second goal, scored by Sinton, which was the culmination of a four-man move across Coventry's goal initiated by Sheringham. What Iversen —

who, incidentally, will have to complete his national service in the near future — will assuredly give the club and the supporters is greater strength in attack.

Yet the impression remains that Francis, conversely a top-class player himself, prefers making the most of individuals of lesser talents as opposed to managing the superstars. This is laudable in itself, but is not necessarily what is required at a club of Tottenham's standing. Not when Arsenal are leading the FA Carling Premiership.

In coded language, Sheringham has emphasised to Francis that Tottenham should be looking to do more than consolidate. He himself had a splendid match, having a volleyed goal unluckily disallowed for offside and bringing an intuition and style to Tottenham's game.

Sheringham is who who scored Tottenham's first goal, which, if anything, looked more offside than the one that was disallowed. Coventry's equaliser, forced in by Whelan after Walker had beaten out Dublin's header, was barely deserved. Gordon Strachan, who has to succeed where Ron Atkinson, for all his managerial experience, could not, summarised their predicament. "We always seem to be chasing the game," he said.

Strachan has all too little time before relegation is imminent and the tumbrils start to roll. COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ostrowski — B. Barrow (sub: P. Toller, 78min), P. Williams, L. Gray, R. Brown — S. Salsbery, S. McAllister, N. Whelan, E. Jones (sub: R. Germain, 78) — D. Eskin, M. McAuley. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-3): I. Whelan — S. Carr, S. Campbell, C. Calderwood, C. Wilson — R. Fry, D. Howley, A. Neilson (sub: J. Duggan, 81), A. Sinton — E. Sheringham, S. Iversen. Referee: G. Whittard.

Time to give young talent a chance

I n a week when Liverpool unveiled plans for an £8 million soccer academy, youth football is once more high on the agenda. It is about time, because it is an important issue and increasingly so, and only now are we starting to get grips with it in this country.

I was heartened by the news that Liverpool will boast the most advanced youth structure in England. Obviously, we are hoping that it will ensure the club's success in the future, but I do hope that other clubs will follow, because we need a stronger and broader base in our game.

It is an issue I have always taken an interest in. I am often cited as one of the success stories of Liverpool's youth system, and I recognise that I am used as an example for other young players with designs on a professional career. I have got involved in coaching kids, too. I have taken several coaching clinics, and this week I went to Tithe Barn School in Stockport to take a look at how the youngsters are shaping up. I was impressed.

Some of the boys were as young as eight, but they had an energy and enthusiasm to be proud of, and great skills. And yet, in many ways, I don't believe the obvious love for the game by kids all over the country is being tapped as it might be.

Liverpool's academy will be based on the Ajax model, but too often in this country we are lagging behind other European nations when it comes to developing young players. Clubs all have policies, but they tend to work in isolation, without any real involvement in the schools. How many times do we hear

complaints that foreign players have better technique. But is it true?

We have players with outstanding technique, but may be not enough professionals at a high level, and that could be connected to the fact that there is no structure bringing schools into the development chain. They have it in Holland, where club coaches are in regular contact with all schools and children from the age of about seven. Perhaps it is time for something similar to happen here.

Instead, we frequently don't even have school football teams any more. More and more you hear of under-resourced schools stopping their sports teams. It happened to me when I was at secondary school. For about three years we didn't have a team at all, and that seems common these days. It is a shame, because if there was a recognised structure, starting in the schools at a young age, it could only

STEVE
McMANAMAN



on the need for a system overhaul

help our game. What happens now is fairly basic. Players are sent for trials on a hit-and-miss basis, usually just from certain schools. They have one chance, and that's it for a few years. It

happened to me. I wonder how many decent young players never even get seen by clubs because of the flaws in that system?

Instead, why not have organisers going into schools, keeping in touch with the team coach, finding out who the best players are. Then they could be easily fed into the academies. I know that is what Liverpool plan to do, and I'm sure it will work.

That way, the local organisers could also help to establish a better standard of coaching at a much younger age. I look back on my experience as a kid, and there were some fairly bad moments. Rarely do the youngsters get developed in ways that seem sensible. It's all kick and rush on pitches that are too big. There are also far too many games for the good kids.

I remember one cup semi-final, when I was only ten or 11. The opposition had a free kick, and our goalkeeper was

only a small lad, stuck in full-size goals. They just got their biggest boy to lump the ball hard into the air above his head. That sort of thing does nothing to help youngsters to develop the technique required later.

I was very small and very thin as a young player, a jinky little winger who dribbled all afternoon, but I feel players like me are not given enough opportunities because our system doesn't encourage it. We had a good side, but we were very small, and that was a disadvantage when it shouldn't have been.

It's not just at school, either. With England, when I was older, some of the coaching still wasn't what you might expect. It's hard to believe, but we were frequently taught to just give the ball a wellie and chase after it.

At least at Liverpool they do it the right way. They get the kids at a young age and concentrate on ball skills and movement. There are no complicated tactics, and definitely no emphasis on players who are big and strong.

The most important players at a professional level are those with great technique, movement and thought, players such as Gullit, Cantona and Barnes. If you concentrate on that at an early age, you are likely to get far more players with better technique. It is so simple, surely everyone should be doing it. But until we have a well thought-out structure that allows clubs to go into schools to influence the coaching, the number of games played and the way in which kids are brought through, then we will remain behind some of the continental countries. Let us hope that Liverpool's plans are a significant step.



McManaman passes on his skills to youngsters at Tithe Barn School in Stockport

McCoist's steel provides Rangers with cutting edge

AS IF it were not enough to be a prolific forward, Ally McCoist has also proved to be a master of disguise. Listening to his careful banter, one might suppose that the only leadership quality he possesses is the telegraphic amiability that persuaded the BBC to give him the job of captain on *A Question of Sport*.

Leaping to that conclusion, however, carries a person bounding over, a sense of distance normally achieved only by an Olympic triple jumper, so far removed is it from the truth. McCoist's features are always on the alert for the next joke, but the extent of the grin conceals the depth of the determination. He pursues remorselessness with a smile.

It is possible to count the precise number of occasions on which this fact ought to have registered. His brace, in the 4-3 win over Hibernian at Ibrox on Saturday, set a new post-war scoring record for league football in Scotland of 265 goals. The first 22 of them were banked with St Johnstone when he was still a teenager.

The only appointment McCoist is guaranteed to keep is the one that requires him to arrive in the six-yard box at precisely the right instant. "This is the earliest I've ever been late," he is supposed to have announced, proudly, when turning up for a club function only a little while after everyone else. It is natural that he should

think time is elastic since McCoist, 34 and far from fit, continues to be vital to Rangers. The club could soon sign Sebastian Rozenthal from Universidad Catolica for £2 million, but the Chilean forward may prove to be the veteran's partner in the side rather than his replacement. After all, no youth from a distant land would be trusted to pump Rangers full of indefatigability, as McCoist did on Saturday.

Wearily after defeat by Auxerre and lacking at least five players who would usually be selected, the Ibrox side encountered a resolute performance from Hibernian and fell 2-1 behind. McCoist's goals, fine examples of the poacher's art, heaved Rangers

over Celtic in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. The advantage springs from the strength of purpose shown by McCoist and his teammates while enduring all the hyperbole and anxiety that surrounds the attempt to equal the record of nine successive championships held by their Glasgow rivals.

Celtic have simply buckled. A 2-1 defeat by Motherwell at Fir Park shamed Tommy Burns's team as much as it damaged them. The Lanarkshire side lost their goalkeeper, Scott Howie, with a suspected fracture of the cheekbone after 64 minutes and had to replace him with Jamie Dolan, a small midfielder player whom the reference books claim to be 5ft 9in.

Motherwell were 1-0 ahead then and although Celtic eventually ground out an equaliser, Alex McLeish's team responded with a further goal, from Ian Ross, in the 89th minute. When examining Burns's labours since 1994, one sees a peculiar amalgam of vast improvements and great shortcomings. The quality of Celtic's squad has been enhanced and, until Saturday, not a single league match had been lost to anyone other than Rangers since May 1995.

On the other hand, Celtic have failed whenever presented with the kind of pivotal game that decides a championship and are turning into habitual losers of the Old Firm fixture. As Burns knows, inferiority to Rangers has always

KEVIN
McCARRA



Scottish
commentary

back into a 3-2 lead. Whether one describes him as pursuing a personal ambition or as fighting the club's cause is unimportant, the steelness with which he sets about his work is all that matters. Its consequence is the eight-point lead Rangers now hold

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FOOTBALL: EVERTON POSE TRADITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR GULLIT'S BLEND OF CONTINENTAL FLAIR

Ferguson brings old-fashioned values to the fore

A two year-old boy of my acquaintance, when asked something like "What are you doing in that bathroom?", usually answers: "I'm creating Ferguson."

Everton came to Chelsea, the current capital of nouvelle vague football and home of everything exotic in the FA Carling Premiership, and set about them with the one great throwback of a centre forward left in the top-class game.

It made for a splendid afternoon of mayhem and grace, both sides providing both qualities, but mixed in different proportions. Chelsea's back line includes the lavishly praised Leboeuf and the richly promising Duberry, but Ferguson made mayhem among them all afternoon.

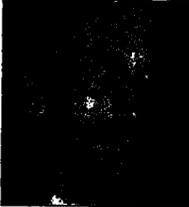
How hateful it must be to play against him. His size is bad enough; it hardly seems fair that he can leap like a stag as well. Also, he can play football, an altogether unfair advantage in a throwback. Worst of all is his unbridled delight in the fray, that terrible and intimate love of physical contact.

Chelsea set the Premiership pace at the start of the season — "early doors," as their manager, Rudd Gullit, said, with linguistic versatility — but subsequently showed that there is a flaw in their challenge. However, that is true of every other side in the top half. It makes for an intriguing, if sub-excellent, championship thus far.

Last weekend, Leeds United met Chelsea's speed of foot and thought with the ancient philosophy of "let's see how fast you can limp." Chelsea were kicked out of it and you wondered if Everton would try the same tactic.

Or perhaps they would start some serious kicking once they fell behind early on. The goal came through a voluptuous

SIMON BARNES



sees Chelsea share a thrilling 2-2 draw

free kick by Zola, the most elegant and obvious contrast to Ferguson. Zola and La Bête Humaine, if you like.

Football is essentially a contradiction, a game played without the precision tools of all man-like beasts, the hands. Yet precision and beauty are essential aspects of the game — hence Zola's curvy, swirly, dippy 25-yarder.

Time, then, for a little mayhem. Ferguson is not head and shoulders above his opponents: when he leaps, he is head and shoulders and chest above them. The subtlest of defending tactics in the world are no good if nine out of ten high balls gets knocked down by an exuberant young giant.

Ferguson's knockdown made the first goal for Everton, shoved home by Branch, an 18-year-old whose wild caperings of celebration made it clear that this was his first senior goal. Everton then took the lead, thanks to a precisely struck 40-yard cross-field ball from, well, Ferguson, as it happened.

One of the many alarming things that can happen on a football field is disorientation. As the ball moves about, you can lose your sense of direction and the precise understanding of where everybody else is. That is why you constantly see

defenders reaching out to grope the man they are marking. You need to know where he is, and where the ball is at the same time.

Ferguson's pass soared sweetly over Clarke's head, straight into the stride of the man he thought he was marking. Kanchelskis is never backward in coming forward when there is a chance to run and shoot, and he did so to perfection.

Everton might have had more, such was the work of the mayhem man, but they were still mightily satisfied with their first half. Cue, then, a rather different second half. Chelsea put on one of the great pyrotechnic displays of the season thus far.

Zola did most of it, a joy to watch. Vialli crossed once and might have had dozens. Zola hit the crossbar, Petrescu and Gullit did some mesmerising stuff along the right. One goal was poor reward for it all, but it was, at least, an awfully pleasant goal. Zola — Gullit — Zola — Vialli, a five-second dismembering of the Everton defence, one that seemed designed to prove, in that small fragment of time, that Premiership exoticisms are a legitimate part of modern football and can give throwbacks a decent game any day.

It was a splendid afternoon of football. I wonder how much more splendid it would have been without a pair of linesmen who seemed quite slavishly in league with the referees. Every assistant referee is still a happy little flag-wagger at heart, so fearful of the flak he will receive for a mistake that causes a goal that he makes error after error the other way and stifles the life out of the game.

The problem is, of course, that the job is physically impossible. Your eyes simply cannot focus on the ball as it is played forward and on the front line at the same time and always, fearing catastrophe, or just from sheer love of involve-



Vialli wards off Speed, the Everton midfielder, at Stamford Bridge

ment in the game, linesmen give the benefit of any doubt to the defending side.

Referees are largely on top of one dubious tactic, that of kicking the opposition off the park — the Leeds v Chelsea game was something of a throwback in itself — but

when it comes to offside, a second dubious and game-killing tactic, we find officials actually in league with the forces of darkness.

Nevertheless, it was a rich afternoon that no jelly-bellied flag-flapper could spoil. It came from two sides not quite

good enough. Yet this season is still there for the taking.

CHelsea (3-5-2): F Grootaers — M Duberry, F Leboeuf, S Clarke — D Petrescu, G Zola, E Newton, D Wiles, S Minto (sub: C Barclay, 86) — G Vialli (sub: F Sinclair, 86), R Gullit. EVERTON (3-5-2): N Southall — E Barrett, D Watson, D Unsworth — A Kanchelskis, J Parkinson, A Grant, G Speed, A Hinrichsen — M Branch (sub: G Stuart, 71), D Ferguson. Referee: P Durkin.

Sturridge is too quick for Arsenal

Arsenal 2 Derby County 2

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

HOW very nearly was Arsenal's bluff called. It was as late as the ninetieth minute when their desperate, if somewhat unfocused, pressure at last brought them the equaliser they scarcely deserved. The resilient Adams crossed from the left-hand byline, the ball came out to Vieira and he smashed his shot into the net.

As Arsenal's scholarly manager, Arsène Wenger, pointed out, it could have been 3-2 if a strangely subdued Ian Wright had not proceeded to miss a fine chance right in front of goal. That, though, would have been carrying recovery a little too far.

Tim Smith, the engaging Derby County manager, admitted to his disappointment. "A good feeling, in a way, to come to Arsenal and feel disappointed. We got mugged in the last minutes: I thought the referee was doing the mugging. A couple of decisions; he gave corners which should have been goal kicks."

Indeed, it was this barrage of corners that, in the end, wore the Derby defence down, though the mighty veteran, McGrath, whom Smith called "magnificent", never wavered.

One talks of Arsenal's bluff in relation to their suspect defence. Lacking Keown, it looked more vulnerable than ever to players who, forgetting reputation and respect, simply run at it and take it on.

Nobody ran at it more cheekily, bravely and successfully than little Dean Sturridge who gave it, in the second half, a real chasing.

He raised the thought that, when Arsenal played Stoke City at Highbury in a Coca-Cola Cup tie last month, they were lucky not to be facing Sturridge's older brother, Simon, who maintains the family virtues of pace, control and courage. As it is, Arsenal's defence may find the name of Sturridge gives them night-

mares, making them toss and turn in bed as he twisted and turned them on the field.

Once Sturridge had shown that Arsenal's back three had boots of clay, however, other Derby players wanted to get in on the act.

It was Sturridge's strike partner, Ward, who drove a shot over the stranded Lukic from some 25 yards on the half-hour, only for it to hit the bar. It was the attacking left back, Chris Powell, who engineered Derby's second goal, after 28 minutes of the second half, receiving from Anasovic, gliding past Linighan to the goal line as though the defender was not there, then pulling back a ball that Sturridge headed, Lukic could only push out, and which the other Powell, Darryl, gleefully struck into the net.

Sturridge had scored

Full results and league tables ... Page 30

Derby's first goal 11 minutes earlier. Beating Adams, who sold himself on the left, much as he had done against Tottenham last Wednesday, Sturridge finally pivoted to strike a fulminating right-footer against the underside of the bar. This time, however, Arsenal did not get away with it. The ball bounced over the line.

Wenger said Arsenal had some "heavy legs" after five games in a fortnight. He admitted that Vieira could have been sent off, risking a second yellow card, in the second half, though both manager and player insisted that the real trouble was that Vieira, told to be aggressive, was "maybe a little less fresh: that's why he makes the fouls."

Wenger plainly still hopes that George Weah, the AC Milan striker, may join Arsenal next season. Meanwhile, he says he is looking for "a good player who can play in different positions."

So is everyone else. ARSENAL (3-5-2): J Lukic — S Bazzi, A Adams, A Linighan (sub: P Stone, 77min) — L Dixon, D Platt, P Vieira, P Merson, M Westwood — W Hogg, J Harrison. DERBY COUNTY (3-5-2): R Hogg — P McGovern, G Rowett, I Simac — J Lancaster, P Beesley — G Kelly, I Sawyer, M Ford, B Rush, S Dwyer. Referee: M Bodenham.



Vieira: last-gasp goal

Managers share sanity in a maddening world

Leicester City 1 Blackburn Rovers 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ASSESS any FA Carling Premiership manager on any given day, particularly a match day, and the chances are he is greying of temple, furrowed of brow and short of patience. An altogether hassled human being, teetering on the brink of implosion or explosion; a fraught, fragile figure to be treated with care.

It was thus refreshing, at a foggy Hilbert Street on Saturday, to witness two managers at peace with the Premiership and, seemingly, the world. Martin O'Neill, of Leicester City, and Tony Parkes, temporarily in charge of Blackburn Rovers, not only

smiled and chuckled but barely offered an excuse between them.

There were no heart-rending complaints of what might have been, no eye-popping vilification of the referee and no flagrant abdication of responsibility. Though they might not bear the same weight of expectation as, for example, Messrs Ferguson, Keegan and Evans, how civilised it was, for a change, to attend post-match discussions devoid of recrimination and rancour.

It was not overly surprising. As the mist swirled in off the River Soar, masking much of the proceedings, Leicester and Blackburn shared an honorable, if unimaginative, draw. Blackburn went ahead in the 34th minute, when Sutton headed home after Sherwood's shot had struck the

crossbar, and Leicester equalised when Marshall nodded in Lennon's free kick 11 minutes from time.

Even in their more animated moments, O'Neill and Parkes would have struggled to get too excited. It was only a short step up from the mundane. Yet what delighted them were the overall developments — respectively, the graduation of Leicester from expected cannon-fodder for the big boys to mid-table acceptance and, for Blackburn, the gradual resurrection from embarrassing under-achievers to spirited performers.

"We've got 21 points now, which is about what many people thought we might get over the whole season," O'Neill said. "Taking everything into account, the side has performed to its abilities

wonderfully well. If you put it in some form of half-sensible context, we're doing OK. I've no complaints."

In other words, forget the critics who said we would go straight back down to the first division: we are doing all right, thank you. With that, O'Neill announced he was taking advantage of the team's two-week break by checking out the dozen or so faxes he receives every day from player-hawking agents. A trek to Europe beckons.

For Parkes, the inner satisfaction and outward contentment is derived more from the happy knowledge that his little adventure will soon be concluded, when Blackburn finally employ a permanent replacement for the departed Ray Harford. Parkes does not want the job, he never has done and can, therefore,

Warholque, bask in his 15 minutes of fame.

"It's only short-term, it's a bit of a hobby for me," he said. "It's lovely pitting my wits against the other Premiership managers — I'm enjoying it, it's a real buzz — but I know it's all going to come to an end."

"I'm a happy-go-lucky type of bloke and I think time would alter that. The pressures build up; I've seen it at close quarters and it's not very pleasant. I don't want that. I don't want to change." Happily, it is not all lunacy in the Premiership asylum.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — 1 Marshall, J Wiles, S Price — M Todd, N Lennon, G Pether (sub: P Adams, 77min), S Taylor, S Grayson — S Clarke, E Hockley. BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-5-1): T Flowers — J Korra, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Saou, C K Gullacher, T Sherwood, W Mackintosh, P Croft (sub: L Borriero, 29), W Wilcox (sub: G Doris, 86) — C Sutton. Referee: M Riley.

Little prepares Villa to meet challenge of festive six-pack

Southampton 0 Aston Villa 1

By PAT GIBSON

BRIAN LITTLE, the Aston Villa manager, reels off the names of their next six opponents in the FA Carling Premiership as smoothly as James Alexander Gordon intoning the football results... Wimbledon, Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United, Newcastle United and Liverpool. As Little concludes, his players are about to find out how good they really are.

It was hard to tell at The Dell on Saturday. Villa won for the fourth time in successive matches to move into fourth place, only five points behind the leaders, Arsenal. All those fixtures, however, have been against desperate sides such as Southampton, for whom this was a fifth consecutive defeat.

Villa are entering the period that will make or break their season and Little will be more interested than anybody to see how they cope. "The expectation around Villa Park has always been very high," he said, "and it was one of the things that we did not handle very well in the first part of the season."

"It's up to ourselves now. We are now, which is where we should be, all of a sudden we could disappear again. We have two weeks to prepare for Wimbledon and hope-

fully we will get everything right and come out with a team that will do well in those six games."

There is no reason why they should not. Villa's game is unashamedly based on making themselves hard to beat, which they have continued to do despite the absence of such outstanding players as Boscich, Southgate and Charles, but they have potential match-winners in every department, as they proved with their goal in the 34th minute.

It began with Wright winning the ball with a biting tackle in midfield and then haring off down the left, where Milosevic found him with a wonderfully perceptive pass. Wright was left with only Beasant to beat, but he unselfishly slipped the ball across goal for Townsend to score so easily that Southampton were convinced he was offside.

That left them nursing a grievance against the referee for the second successive week but the fact of the matter is that those heady days of October, when they put six goals past Manchester United, are already lost in the mists of time.

Southampton did have their chances, two falling to Watson in the first five minutes, when he could not beat Oakes, and another to Ostenstad in the 75th minute, when he steered the ball against an upright, but in between times Townsend twice finished recklessly when he was clean through and Milosevic brought a magnificent

save from Beasant with a stunning left-foot strike.

Not so long ago, Villa were prepared to see Milosevic, fueling speculation that they wanted to replace him with Collymore, but since that deal fell through he has played a significant part in their winning run. He is so committed to the left that he can make John Prescott look like a Tory, but Little said: "If anybody who has seen him today tells me that he is not a good footballer, I have to look him straight in the eye and say: 'I'm sorry, you're wrong.'"

Southampton have an incredible talent of their own, of course, in Le Tissier, and the good news for them is that he may return against Oxford United in a Coca-Cola Cup replay a week on Wednesday.

Graeme Souness, the manager, knows, however, that even he may not be enough to save them this time. "I'm hoping that we can bring in two more players, a striker and a defender, in a very short time. The danger is that we are putting in a lot of players who are new to each other but the alternative is to run with what we've got and we are obviously short in certain areas. I don't think there is a choice."

U Van Sijbe, M Mecklen (sub: J Magilton, 67min), R Dwyer — M Oakes, J Doran, E Berekovic, C Lundström, Peter (sub: R Sison, 53) — G Wilson (sub: K Morrison, 78), E Ostenstad. ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — U Eboagu, S Staunton, R Boscich, C Hendry, M Milosevic, D Taylor, A Townsend, A Wright — S Dwyer, D Yates (sub: J Joachim, 54). Referee: S Lodge.

Klinsmann ready to leave Bayern

JURGEN KLINSMANN has given the broadest hint yet that he may be about to leave Bayern Munich. Klinsmann's relationship with Giovanni Trapattoni, the Bayern coach, has deteriorated during a season in which he has scored just five goals.

"If it goes on like this, I'm leaving," Klinsmann, who captained the German team that won the European championship in England this summer, said. The Bundesliga is just beginning its two-month winter break.

"I have had to swallow a lot and I'm prepared to swallow a lot more to win the German championship," Klinsmann said. "But when everyone takes it out on me, I have to ask myself whether I belong here."

Bayern lead the championship, but have scored far fewer goals than Borussia Dortmund, their main rivals for the title, and Trapattoni's tactics have been widely criticised.

Klinsmann's contract at Bayern runs until the end of the season and his comments are sure to interest several English clubs after his hugely successful season with Tottenham Hotspur in 1994-95, when he was voted Footballer of the Year.

Frustrated Middlesbrough still taxed by import duty

Middlesbrough 0 Leeds United 0

By PETER BALL

FOREIGN affairs continued to command the attention at Middlesbrough on Saturday. The scoreline said almost all there was to say about a desperately poor match — almost, but not quite. It failed to reveal the extent of Middlesbrough's domination.

After their poor run, their fourth point out of 33 was scant reward, but Bryan Robson, their manager, could take some consolation from the suggestions that Emerson, his errant and absent Brazilian, may return with his wife today, and even more from his team's spirit, epitomised by Fabrizio Ravanelli, his Italian striker.

Last week, as if Robson did not have enough problems with his imports, even the impeccable Juninho got in on the act with a report that his transfer from São Paulo was being investigated by the Brazilian fraud squad. More pertinently, stories of Ravanelli's desire to join a more successful club surfaced again. Ravanelli denied it and on Saturday his performance spoke louder than any words. With good support from Jan Aage Fjørtoft, playing his first game of the season, Ravanelli produced Middlesbrough's best moments and worked like a Trojan, rather

than a Roman, to keep Leeds's three central defenders fully stretched all afternoon.

"All those stories about two camps in the dressing room, about lack of team spirit, were rubbish," Nell Cox, the Middlesbrough defender, said. "You could see that today — there was a lot going on off the ball out there and as soon as a scuffle broke out, all the boys were in there together, everyone came in. Ravanelli and Jan were great up front. Rav was superb, he worked and chased and battled for a result. He and Jan they were chasing the ball into the corners, they gave 110 per cent."

They also provided the moments when Middlesbrough could have won. Fjørtoft may lack the pace to be an outstanding striker in the FA Carling Premiership, but his touch is good, so is his brain, and his ability to turn a defender and strike the ball in one movement is breathtaking. One turn and chip, leaving Beesley on his back, would have produced a goal for a taller man than Hignett. Another turn and instant shot produced a save. Martyn only bettered when Ravanelli tested him.

Yet how much longer will Ravanelli be prepared to serve a losing cause? "They are a poor side," Branco, Middlesbrough's departed Brazilian, had said last week. If that was not unbiased testimony, they are certainly a long way from being a good one.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-5-2): G Weston — C Little, Hignett, P Stamp, R Marston, C Fleming — A Fjørtoft, F Ravanelli, F Ravanelli, J A Fyfe. LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): M Martin — C Palmer, D Weir, P Beesley — G Kelly, I Sawyer, M Ford, B Rush, S Dwyer. Referee: D Emsay.

Rob Hughes sees Barcelona, and an Englishman abroad, bow to the might of Madrid

Real power poses threat to Robson's reign in Spain

The euphoria that was Bobby Robson's a few short weeks ago, the relish in particular of being guardian to Ronaldo, arguably the world's greatest developing talent, left the English manager in Spain abruptly, deep into Saturday night.

When Real Madrid's marvellous second goal went in against his Barcelona team in the second half, Robson was slumped in the corner of the dugout — a man alone in a crowd of more than 100,000 at Real's Bernabeu Stadium, a man whose every response to what players young enough to be his grandchildren were doing was being monitored by five hundred million television viewers in 40 countries. This is what football managers call "pressure".

Many of those suffering souls who never grapple with anything more complicated than the English game would say that they would swap dugouts with the Durham miner's son for his million-pound salary. Little do they appreciate that one defeat, notably a 2-0 defeat to the imperial power from Madrid, quickens tempers in Catalonia, where Robson's task is, first and foremost, to defeat the enemy from the south.

He is trying something even more special. At 63, Robson seeks to conclude probably his final challenge by adding the Spanish league title to the championships he managed in Holland, with PSV Eindhoven, and in Portugal, with FC Porto. What does a manager, any manager, do when the opposition scores twice, and his own team shows the spirit to come back, strike the woodwork twice, and the footballing world sits in judgment? After a ten-hour build-up for this 144th encounter between Real and Barcelona, the rigour and order that Fabio Capello, released last summer by AC Milan, has so quickly ingrained into his side, were better than the liberalism that Robson allows his individuals, culled from Portugal, France, Romania and, of course, Brazil.

He needed something like British never-say-die spirit against Capello's equally cosmopolitan squad. He got it from Luis Enrique and Guardiola, but the mercenaries — fellows like Popescu, Figo and Giovanni — only seemed prepared to run so far. At that point the legs were run off them by players representing a club trying to see off a mountain of debt and simultaneously to recapture the honour of being called the best side in the world.

The goals, though, so different in style, were claimed first by a Croat, and then a Montenegrin. After 24 minutes, Roberto Carlos, the Brazil left back, swung in a low, curling free kick. It was missed, negligently, by Luis Enrique and the Frenchman, Laurent Blanc, but even more negligent was to leave Davor Suker, a man already renowned for his predatory instincts. "This night is the biggest in the world after a World Cup," he had said. Suker, dark, lean and upright, finished with the stealth of a rifleman.

If that goal was harsh, given that Barcelona were then achieving the aim of possessing the ball and frustrating the Madrid aficionados, the second strike, four minutes into the second half, was pure class. It came with the smoothness, almost the indolence, with which seemingly every fan in this awesome, five-tiered stadium, peeled the silver foil off their ham sandwiches during the break. Zip, zip, zip — and zip again went the passes. Secretario, from Portugal, began the inspiration from right back. His pass to Hiero

volleyed with the instep. Hiero strode forward and released the ball from the centre circle. From there, the two former Yugoslavs, Suker and Mijatovic, worked on and off the ball, and joined with the surging Dutchman, Seedorf, to carve cunning openings in the Barcelona resistance in the space of split seconds.

It must have been almost a relief when those representing Catalonia saw the sheer brilliance, the toying with their defenders, end with the ball gently lobbed forward by Seedorf and artfully passed into the net by Mijatovic.

Where was Ronaldo, the Brazilian for whom Manchester United would allegedly pay £20 million? He was there, and how we knew it. Everybody was interviewing him, following him, praising and occupying him. The young man had his knee operated on long before his twentieth birthday, and he had this mammoth television audience dissecting, frame by frame, some of the astonishing dribbles and muscular might that make him the leading scorer in the Spanish league, with 13 goals in his first 16 games.

Whatever Mancunians may wish, he is the property of Barcelona, whose response to even a sniff of a bid was to offer him another half a million pounds on his £1.3 million salary. Would Manchester offer Ronaldo's family the Mediterranean climate of Barcelona? Would they find a villa as luxurious as this young genius's family enjoys rent-free? Would Nike, his

other paymaster to the tune of £750,000 per annum, want him transferred to the city of Umbro? Business interwoven with sport.

Not just because Ronaldo's head is shaven, not just because he has a fully developed and imposing build, he appears quite manly, and certainly undisturbed by the clamour. Outside, as youths not far short of his age attempted to climb the giant towers of the stadium, Ronaldo confirmed that he flattered by Manchester United's interest, flattered by comparisons to Cruyff and Pelé, but said: "I am happy where I am. I have a long way to travel for Barcelona and for Brazil. I want to win the Spanish title and the World Cup, and I think both are possible."

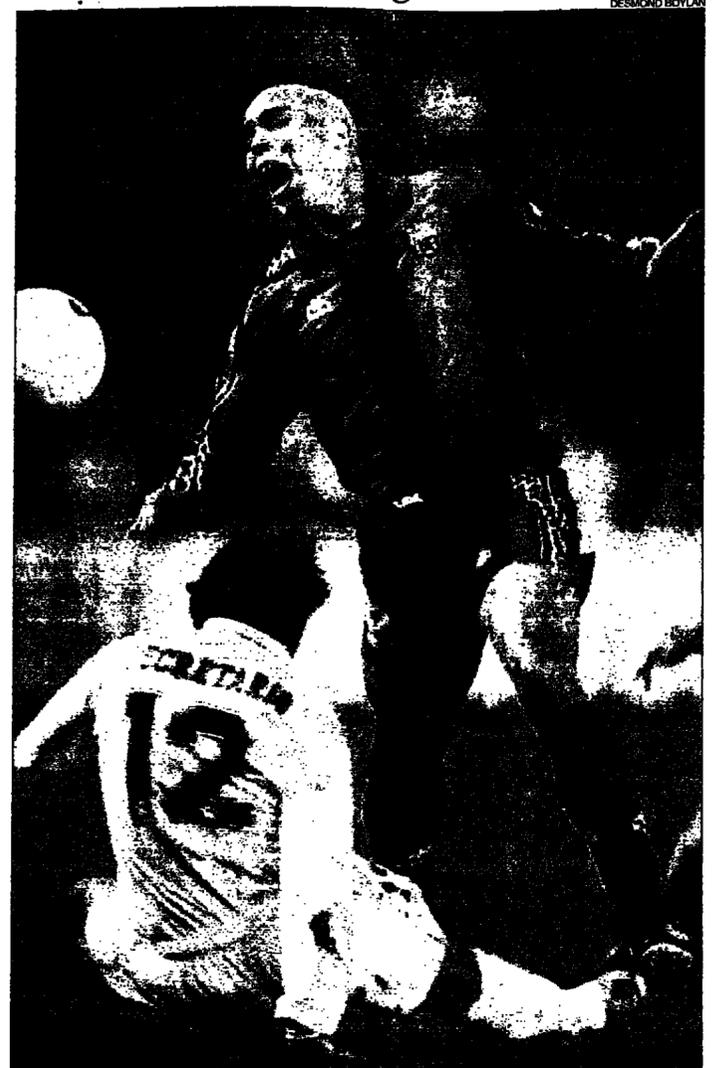
From the youth to the men who bought him. A harsh observer will have seen how grey and forlorn, how apparently old, Robson looked in his stillness, compared with Capello. "Capello has demonstrated his class tonight," Luis Fernandez, the former France international, who was one of a great phalanx of managers and coaches drawn to "the game of the century", said.

Robson, even in defeat, showed his defiance. He argued that his players had created opportunities; that, even two goals down, they had shown spirit. This man, who managed England in the frenzy of the Azteca Stadium with its 114,000 audience, who had taken Ipswich Town through a 0-0 draw against Real Madrid decades ago, insisted: "Defeat tonight had nothing to do with the atmosphere. Sure, it was electric, fantastic. But these players of mine are internationals. Their performance today, and for the rest of this season, is up there with Real Madrid. ... and I tell you we will be very much closer to them when we meet again, at our place, towards the end of the season."

Closer than first and second? History, the whole defiance of the Catalanian people, demands something higher than closer. They will be *numero uno*, or Robson will be retired.



'Robson was slumped in the dugout, a man alone in a vast crowd'



Ronaldo feels the full weight of Secretario's tackle during the summit meeting in Spain

FA CUP: CAMBRIDGE THE LATEST TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF VAUXHALL CONFERENCE TEAM

Dismissal pegs back Enfield

Enfield 1
Peterborough United 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE sight of footballers kissing is nothing new; managers however, are another matter. But then George Borg, of Enfield, (the kisser) and Barry Fry, of Peterborough United, (the kissed) are something of a mutual admiration society. "I've worked for him, I've played for him, I love him to death; he's great," Borg said of his mentor after the drawn FA Cup second-round game at the Isis League club's Southbury Road ground on Saturday. Fry was only slight

Glenn Hoddle, the England manager, and Bobby Robson, one of his predecessors, who is now in charge of Barcelona, will make the draw for the third round of the FA Cup tonight. The draw will be shown live on BBC2 at 10.15pm.

SECOND-ROUND REPLAY DATES:
December 17: Wycombe Wanderers v Burnley (7.45); Peterborough United v Enfield (7.45); Burnley v Watford (7.45); Scunthorpe United v Wrexham (7.45).

less effusive about Borg, once captain under his management at Maidstone.

To tell the truth, the bonhomie was probably fuelled partly by relief on both sides that they were still in the competition. Either team could have been eliminated during a frantic final minute, which encapsulated the drama of the Cup, even if the match as a whole did not. First it seemed Peterborough must score the winner in a scramble inches from Enfield's goalkeeping. Then the ball was kicked clear to Arnon, who set off on a blistering 50-yard run that was only stopped by Griemink's dive at his feet.



Borg bonhomie

Walker breaks the deadlock to send Woking marching on to glory

Cambridge United 0
Woking 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

THIS time, Clive Walker admitted, his match-winning stroke of genius had a hint of luck. Woking's FA Cup second-round tie against Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday was, he felt, heading for a draw unless somebody "tried something a little bit different." Given unexpected room 25 yards from goal outside the top left-hand corner of the Cambridge penalty area, Walker floated over a high, hanging cross to the far post.

He had reasoned that Scott Barrett, the Cambridge goalkeeper, had dealt with his previous couple of crosses — flatter, quicker and aimed at the middle. "I thought I'd hit the ball long to see if I could find Darran Hay or someone beyond the far post," Walker said. "When I looked up, I thought, 'if it bends, it's going to go in.'"

Read the ball did, and brushed off the post into the net. The goal, in the 74th minute, might have been blessed with luck but it was the kind earned by calculated premeditation from a player who is a past master at trying for every little bit going.

Nor were Woking fortunate to win. The Vauxhall Confer-

ence side did not even have to endure the 80-minute rear-guard action needed for their 1-0 first-round replay win at Millwall. Within ten minutes of Walker's goal, Wye and Walker combined down the right. Hay fired a shot that was blocked and Taylor charged up to sweep the ball past Barrett.

Cambridge had, in Hyde, yellow-booted and blue mittened, and Preece, rather less ostentatious, a potent midfield combination. Batty, in the Woking goal, however, proved himself alert to every danger. "He's the best goalkeeper in non-League football. Magnificent — is that good enough?" Walker said, turning with a grin to his team-mate.



Walker: approached



FA CUP

Equally impressive was Foster, a central defender signed for £9,000 from Telford United, whose speed and reading of the game brought him back to make a sliding interception to rob Beall and a flying header to deny Kyd. "He's only 21," Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, said. "He's worth at least £100,000 more than that £9,000. I'm going to have trouble keeping him. I've already got clubs looking at him."

It is keeping hold of a rather more senior figure that is his immediate concern — a 39-year-old whom he compared to Bobby Charlton — bald pate, two good feet, ambassadorial qualities and all. Walker has been approached by Rushden and Diamonds to become their player-coach. Under contract with Woking, he insisted the decision is not his. "It's up to the management committee — the ball is in their court," he said.

The committee, the 11-strong decision-making or decision-muddling body, takes your pick, that runs the club meets tonight. Chapple said: "I don't think he'll leave. He enjoys it here. The last three or four

seasons have been good to him. He's made a lot of friends. The grass is not always greener. It's not just about the money they can offer."

Walker had made no secret that he wants to become involved in coaching. "We've got a coach [Colin Lippiatt] and a set-up with 14 or 15 players," Chapple said. "It works well. The way he's playing I can't see why Clive won't get another playing contract. I'll be ready to think again if we get into the Football League, but I can't change things at the moment."

Woking's league ambitions may be lost for the season if the Cup draw throws up an attention-stealing tie. "It's got to be Old Trafford for me," Chapple said. "Chelsea, Batty holled, not just for his own sake, but pointing to Bobby Walker, the Stamford Bridge old boy.

The Kidderminster Harriers manager certainly hopes so. Chapple revealed that his team to the 4-1 win over Dover Athletic that took them 12 points clear of Woking in the Conference, sent a fax "hoping you stay in the Cup as long as possible."

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (3-5-2): S Barrett — J Craddock, M Joseph, D Granville — P Preece, R Lodge, D Preece (subs: D Thompson, S Brown, M Beall, A Hayes (sub: R Turner, 89) — M Kuel, J Barnett. WOKING (2-4-1-2): I Batty — T Howard, K Brown, S Foster — S Steele (sub: A Ellis, 82) — D Hay (sub: J Hunter, 89), C Walker. Referee: G Piel.

Bolton pay the penalty for Branagan error

West Bromwich Albion 2
Bolton Wanderers 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

A THICK fog lingered over the West Midlands yesterday, but at The Hawthorns the promotion credentials of Bolton Wanderers remained clearly visible. All good teams are chisel out results when they are some way off their best, and that was the case as Bolton extended their lead at the top of the Nationwide League first division to three points against a West Bromwich Albion side that overcame a number of injuries to display a tenacity that enabled them to twice come back from behind.

However, Bolton were not entirely happy with their afternoon's work. But for a moment of indiscipline from Keith Branagan, the goalkeeper, they would have completed their fourth away win of the season and, remarkably, only their second in the last 21 encounters between these sides here. The visitors were 2-1 up with 12 minutes left when, needlessly, Branagan pushed Paul Peschisolido after catching a cross from Paul Groves. The penalty was awarded and Taylor, a substitute, duly converted, although not before both Branagan and Blake had been booked by Kevin Lynch, the referee, for dissent.

In all, six players were shown the yellow card in what was, at times, an unedifying spectacle. Just three minutes had gone when Dobby, of Albion, playing against his former club, clattered into Blake and should have been dismissed, regardless of the early stage of proceedings. Later, Taggart, the Bolton defender, was guilty of a similarly gruesome challenge on Peschisolido near the corner flag.

Bolton have led the division since the middle of September. The departure of Sasa Curcic has been compensated by the arrival of Per Frandsen, who might not possess the maverick individual qualities of the Serb but fits into the overall pattern more easily.

There was an element of fortune in the way that he found himself in a position to put Bolton ahead, after 37 minutes, but his finish was as cool as the temperature. A pass to McGinlay rebounded back into his path off the

unfortunate Smith and he curled a shot away from Crichton from 14 yards.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, warned his players at half-time to be more cautious in the way they moved forward and blamed bad positioning for the manner in which Peschisolido was allowed to level two minutes after the resumption. He met a through-ball from Sneekes unopposed and continued unchallenged before tucking his shot beyond Branagan.

Todd claims that he is no longer interested in signing Mike Newell, the Birmingham striker, and can have no qualms with the effort of either McGinlay or Blake. Indeed, a

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good work-rate was apparent throughout a side generally noted for flair rather than strength.

Had they been spared that rush of blood by Branagan, Bolton may have eased to success, because Todd felt that they were at their most comfortable after Fairclough, punishing a mistake by Agnew, had put them 2-1 ahead. Then again, television replays suggested that Albion should have won a second penalty in injury time, when a cross from Collicott struck Taggart on the arm.

"We cannot keep shooting ourselves in the foot," Todd said. "Keith had a good afternoon in general, but it was a moment of stupidity. We have to be more professional in a situation like that."

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (3-5-2): F Crichton — J Dobby, P Agnew, D Burgess — P Hedges, R Sneekes (sub: S Colbeck, Slinn), P Groves, I Hamilton, D Strain — P Peschisolido, A Hunt (sub: R Taylor, 71). BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): G Branagan — G Bergerson, C Fairclough, G Taggart, J Phillips — D Lee (sub: M Johnston, 78), P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Solari — J McCrory, M Bales. Referee: K Lynch.

Hednesford dance into third round

By KERRY PIKE

WOKING'S FA Cup exploits may have become something of a routine, but there was no disguising the joy felt by their Vauxhall Conference colleagues, Hednesford Town and Stevenage Borough, as they furthered the cause of the "fifth division" on Saturday. Both clubs travelled to Nationwide League opposition and both returned savouring well-deserved places in the third-round draw.

Hednesford's triumph over Blackpool, secured with Joe O'Connor's goal three minutes from time, prompted John Baldwin, the manager, to dance a jig of delight across Bloomfield Road. It was, he said, "a dream come true and the greatest day in the club's history." For every winner ... stew-

ards had to protect Gary Megson as supporters of the club that won the Cup in 1953 called for the manager's head. Vicki Oyston, the Blackpool chairman, refused to be panicked. "I've got to look at the long-term interests of Blackpool," she said. "I don't believe in knee-jerk reactions."

Stevenage, who, but for a controversial decision to deny them automatic promotion, would have been competing against Leyton Orient as third division equals, rammed home the point with a 2-1 triumph at Brisbane Road. The Conference champions were ahead inside a minute through Corey Browne, pegged back by Channing's header, but in front again before half-time thanks to Neil Catlin. Peter Shilton, in the Orient goal, had little chance of stopping either goal.

Boreham Wood came within six minutes of forcing a replay against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road, but it can go horribly wrong for the minnows. St Albans were swamped 9-2 by Bristol City at Ashton Gate, where Agostino scored four, while Ashford Town conceded five goals in the second half to Watford at Vicarage Road.

For Brentford, there are a few hours left to cling to the prospect of a preferred third-round pairing with Manchester United; for Sudbury Town, thoughts must turn to night-have-beens and the forthcoming delights of Merthyr and Mildenhall. Sudbury had heroism in the tractor-lead, but out the Suffolk side went, 3-1. Sometimes, bravery is just not enough.

Sudbury's FA Cup journey had started at Gorleston in September and proceeded via those other football hothouses of Purfleet, Corby and Canvey Island. By the time that they had reached the competition proper for the first time, beating Brighton was a breeze. On Saturday, though, class told.

Brentford were too composed, too determined and ultimately too fit for their Dr Martens League rivals. With six former Colchester United players in their ranks, Sudbury had chosen Laver Road — scene of one of the great upsets a quarter of a century ago — as the venue. Yet if they sought inspiration, they found only frustration and, but for the heroics of Steve Mokler, their defiant, diminutive goalkeeper, it could have been a humiliation.

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Packers prepare to come in from the cold

Frank Emmert Jr is not a nationally known figure, but he is a celebrity in these parts. His fame has lasted for more than a year now, since the day when the light plane in which he was a passenger crashed a couple of hundred miles from here, at a place called Stevens Point. The doctors who treated him said his life had been saved because he was wearing a giant piece of cheese on his head. The cheese, you see, was there as a sign of allegiance to Green Bay Packers, the team from small blue-collar America that is threatening to rip the Super Bowl away from big city slickers such as Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers this year and inject a rare shot of sentimentality and romance into American football.

'Team is the town's only source of pride'

Packers supporters glory in the nickname "Cheeseheads" because of the prevalence of dairy farming in Wisconsin. Emmert's escape, a result of the cheese cushioning the impact when the plane crashed on its way back from a Packers game in Cleveland, merely confirmed

the opinion here that being a Packers fan really is a matter of life and death.

It only takes a few hours in this town — population 96,466 — that huddles around an inlet off Lake Michigan, about 200 miles north of Chicago near the Canadian border, to realise quite how interwoven in the fabric of everyday life the team is. The degree of intensity of support it attracts is unerring. It is a kind of sporting commitment that is a social phenomenon.

Yesterday nearly 60,000 supporters braved sub-zero temperatures for more than three hours to watch the Packers entertain away from big city slickers such as Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers this year and inject a rare shot of sentimentality and romance into American football.

Support for them pervades the community in a way that puts even the passion of, say, Newcastle

Oliver Holt discovers small town supporters in Green Bay dreaming of being big cheeses in American football again

United supporters in the shade. Everywhere in Green Bay, men and women, young and old, traditional and trendy, wear the Packers' green and yellow shirts, sweatshirts, anoraks and leather jackets. Manchester United have got nothing on this kind of market penetration.

There are other signs, too. At one of the only two cinemas in the downtown area, they are showing *A Time To Kill* on one screen and old Packers games on the other. And outside the Holiday Inn, the best hotel in town, three flags flutter: the Stars and Stripes, the Wisconsin State emblem and the Packers insignia.

Part of it, perhaps, is that the Packers are the town's only source of pride, the only thing that puts a timber-trading town dominated by paper mills, its packing company and its port on the map; the only thing that draws attention to it. It goes without saying that there are no other professional sports franchises here. The next best thing

after the Packers are minor league ice hockey games between Green Bay Gamblers and teams such as Fargo Ice Sharks.

But there is more to it than that. Somehow, the Packers have come to embody, not just to Green Bay

people but to Americans in general, a living ideal of the way sport used to be in this country.

They are an anachronism in American sport, a small-town club that has survived alongside giant concerns such as the Cowboys. They are the only professional sports team in the country that is publicly owned, run by the Packer Corporation which comprises about 200 shareholders, many from the surrounding area.

These things have guaranteed them their status as America's favourite underdog, the team forever trying, against the odds, to recapture the glorious days of 30 years ago, the days of the Ice Bowl here at Lambeau Field, when the Packers beat the Cowboys in the coldest game in National Football League history, the days when they and their legendary coach, Vince Lombardi, left their imprint on the nation forever by winning the first two Super Bowls.

with the television explosion and the first glimpses many Americans had of professional football was of men fighting against the elements as well as their opponents. The first words from the coach they heard were not clichés, but the rousing moral exhortations of Lombardi.

"Unless a man believes in himself," Lombardi said, "and makes a total commitment to his career and puts everything he has into it, his mind, his body and his heart, what is his life worth to him?" After he died, they named the Super Bowl trophy after him for speeches like that.

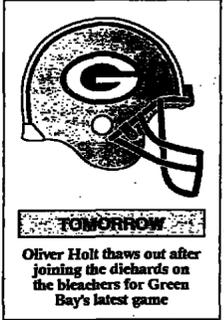
Since Lombardi left in 1969, the Packers have never had another realistic shot at winning the Super Bowl, but this year it might be their time. Last week television news crews descended en masse on Green Bay, all wanting to explore the Packer phenomenon.

They were told little snippets about the peculiarities of life in the frozen north, where parts of the Bay are already thick with ice. There are so few African-Ameri-

cans in the community, the coach, Mike Holmgren said, that a barber is hired to come up from Milwaukee once a week to cut the hair of the black players who make up about half the team.

Twice a week, "soul food" like yams, fried chicken, chitlins and greens is flown in to make the players feel more at home. A Director of Family Programs has also been appointed to try to make it easier for new players to settle in, although one cannot help feeling it is so isolated here. It is the type of place that would make Emerson's wife embrace Middlesbrough with open arms.

The players, almost to a man, say they love it here, that the local people have showed them nothing but kindness and affection, that the lack of distractions has brought them all closer together and kept them out of trouble. "If people need a larger place, a New York City type of place," Holmgren said, "then Green Bay is not for them." Maybe not, but it is still a cheese head's idea of heaven.



'America's favourite underdog'

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CYCLING

Ball pursues initial steps to distinction

BY PETER BRYAN

THEY share the same initials and Chris Ball is hoping that, one day, he will emulate Chris Boardman, Britain's pursuit world champion and record-holder. Like his idol, Ball made a speedy start to his racing career as a junior. He set a British record for 25 miles in 1992 and also won the national track pursuit championship that year.

He has already been dubbed "CB2" but maintains that if he can win the British pursuit title, then target the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, he will be happy.

This year, after not competing for most of 1995 because of a torn Achilles tendon, Ball has been able again to show the promise of his potential. He was in the winning Harlow Velodrome squad that took the national team pursuit title and on Saturday, representing London, he had an outstanding pursuit victory in the Key 103 Euroleague in Manchester.

Five riders started 50 metres apart on the 250-metre track and Ball and Ronny Lauke, of Dortmund, made short work of catching their Amsterdam, Manchester and Cardiff opponents. In the last circuit of the 12-lap race, Ball closed to

within 15 metres of the German to win with a fast time of 3min 27.73sec. "I was easing the pace because there were other events for me later on the programme," he said.

Ball's victory gave London third place overall in the competition but Dortmund, with 36 points, and Amsterdam, on 30, were convincingly superior squads.

The availability of Britain's first permanent indoor track has taught the 22-year-old Ball a lot. To compete regularly throughout a 12-month season, he will need what he calls "recovery breaks" which he plans after the national championships next year and other leading events, including the first five Premier Calendar road races.

Roger Hammond added the South of England cyclo-cross championship at Dover yesterday to the London Open title he won last week, dominating the ten-mile race from the start. He finished 1min 55sec ahead of Andrew Taylor, with Brian Curtis a further 30 seconds behind.

Matthew Guy retained his Midlands title over 14 miles at Derby, beating Dean Barnet and Steve Knight, champion on six previous occasions.



Seeing is believing for Gladishiva at Vail and she duly celebrates her unexpected super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Ed Andriesski

Gladishiva again favoured by late start

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IN THE most surprising event of the still-young World Cup season, Svetlana Gladishiva, of Russia, raced from far back in the pack at Vail, Colorado, on Saturday afternoon to win a women's super giant slalom and claim the first victory in her ten-year career. Starting 32nd, Gladishiva, 25, from Livov, recorded 1min 17.76sec to snatch victory from Pernilla Wiberg, from Sweden, who already had accepted congratulations for what seemed like being her second victory of the winter in the discipline.

Wiberg settled for second place in 1min 17.97sec, while Carole Montillet, of France, another late starter at 29th, claimed third in 1min 18.11sec. Katja

Seizinger, of Germany, the overall World Cup leader, finished ninth, her worst result of the season, but leads Wiberg in the overall standings, 414pts to 353pts.

"I can't believe I won," a beaming Gladishiva said at the finish, a moment after letting out a wild scream when she saw the scoreboard. Later — and calmer — she said: "Not bad, huh?"

After some 27 inches of fresh snow fell over the previous two days, the top racers scrambled to select advantageous starting positions. Gladishiva, though, who had little choice in when she would race, may have been helped by her late start, for the sun had left the course, making it colder and faster.

Although she had never finished higher than thirteenth in a World Cup super giant slalom, she had a precedent of late-start success in the event. At the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, in 1994, she took the silver medal after starting 35th.

Gladishiva surprised nobody more than herself. "I didn't expect even to do well and I never had the feeling I was skiing so fast," she said of her run on a course that favoured downhill specialists.

Even after her apparent victory had disappeared, Wiberg was happy with her result and her strongest start in eight World Cup seasons. "In super-G, nothing is finished and the tradition of Vail is that the course holds, even improves," she said. "My goal is to win

the slalom championship. Anything after that is extra."

Like Gladishiva, Montillet was ecstatic with her result. "I expected nothing like this," she said.

The super giant slalom was the second stage of a unique double race day necessitated when a snowstorm pushed the downhill, scheduled for Friday, back a day. Renate Goetschl, of Austria, won the downhill event in the morning. Similarly, the World Cup season's opening men's super giant slalom was cancelled yesterday because of a heavy overnight snowfall and poor visibility at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia. The downhill was cancelled there on Saturday.

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IN BRIEF

Hendry's path is blocked by Morgan

STEPHEN HENDRY will attempt to apply the finishing touches to another highly successful year at the German Open, which gets underway at the British Army base in Osnabruck this afternoon (Phil Yates writes).

As usual Hendry is the ante-post favourite to pocket the £40,000 first prize. In the last 16 Hendry, who also holds an impregnable lead at the head of the provisional world rankings, faces Darren Morgan, an opponent to whom he has lost only once in 13 meetings.

Stojko's title

Ice Hockey: Elvis Stojko, the former world champion, of Canada, took the leading place in the free skating event to win the men's singles title for a second year running at the NHK Trophy figure skating competition in Kadoma, Japan yesterday. Stojko turned in a near-perfect performance in the free programme.

Eagles swoop

Rugby League: Sheffield Eagles have signed Steve Edmed, the Australian prop, from North Queensland Cowboys. He spent nine years with Batmain before joining the Cowboys for the 1996 season, was player of the year at the Townsville club and the players' choice as player of the year.

Darragh happy

Equestrianism: Paul Darragh, of Ireland, took a big step towards the Volvo World Cup final next year when he won the European League qualifier in Seville. Riding Cera I, he clinched the eighth of 15 qualifiers with the fastest of three clear rounds.

Record win

Rugby union: British Steel (Port Talbot) set a Welsh league points scoring record as they beat Ogmore Vale 131-5. They scored 21 tries in their Division 8A Central match — seven of them from Jason Lowndes, the centre.

HOCKEY: PREMIER DIVISION LEADERS SUFFER SETBACKS AS FEMALE COUNTERPARTS AGREE TO JOIN FORCES

Cannock draw small comfort Women vote to join with men

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK. Southgate and Old Loughtonians, the top three teams in the premier division, all suffered setbacks as the National League officially went into its winter recess yesterday. Cannock, however, regained the leadership, despite a 2-2 draw with Guildford.

Southgate lost 2-1 away to Teddington, who profited from an increased work rate in the second half. The Southgate defence had earlier lost Duñie, who suffered a shoulder injury in a collision and was taken to hospital.

Gibbons, a former Teddington player, had given Southgate the lead in the twelfth minute. Nicklin equalised from a short corner four minutes later, with the winning goal from Conway coming eight minutes from time. A goal by Edwards from a

short corner, saved the day for Cannock in their away match against Guildford. Jennings converted a short corner in the seventh minute to put Guildford in front, but the advantage was cancelled out three minutes later when Crutchley converted a penalty.

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stroke. A well-taken goal by Garrard in the twelfth minute restored the lead for Guildford, who then had a goal by Jennings from a short corner disallowed because the ball had not been stopped before the final shot was taken.

Southgate will have a chance to redress the balance when they play Teddington again on Saturday and

Cannock will look for victory when they entertain Guildford the next day. Both are rearranged matches brought about by postponements.

Reading enjoyed a 3-2 away victory against Old Loughtonians in a hard fought match. Ashdown converted a short corner in the 22nd minute to put Reading in front, but Dover equalised in similar fashion four minutes later. Two quick goals — Pearson from open play, and Slay from a short corner — gave Reading a firm grip on the match. A confrontation between Morrison, of Old Loughtonians, and Ashdown led to both players being temporarily suspended, before Thompson reduced Reading's lead in the 57th minute. The result pushed Reading into third position behind Cannock and Southgate.

MONICA PICKERSGILL, president of the All-England Women's Hockey Association, admitted to a huge sense of relief after revealing that the AEWHA had followed their male counterparts in voting to dissolve the association and form a single governing body.

After the 84 per cent vote in favour by the men's Hockey Association on Wednesday, the AEWHA gained a 93.5 per cent mandate in their postal vote to ensure that the sport will move into the next century as the English Hockey Association. The existing bodies will dissolve on May 31 next year and the new association will be formed on June 1 1997, and be based at the new national stadium in Milton Keynes.

Pickersgill admitted that she was disappointed, but not surprised, that only 21 per cent of the membership had exer-

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

cised their voting rights on such a crucial issue, adding: "I still believe that the majority of women were very, very positive about what is at stake and, of course, some were a little sad about dissolving our association."

"I'm delighted that we made such a clear decision and feel excited that we can now move ahead and carry the game forward for the benefit of all those involved in English hockey."

The chief executive of the Hockey Association, Stephen Baines, said that forming one body would not only satisfy the International Hockey Federation's wish that countries either unite or have an umbrella union by the year 2000, but that the move also opened up the promise of extra funding from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

He said: "We'll be able to improve in numerous areas, but hopefully will also be able to expand the commercial department and begin signing up sponsors. We have the best facilities in the world from our national stadium right down to all the artificial surfaces at the clubs. The game couldn't be better placed for the future."

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS FOR CHRISTMAS

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JUDO

Britain set to invest in new crop of talent

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH judo woke from its Olympic nightmare on Saturday. A new generation of talented young fighters began the arduous struggle towards the 2000 Games when they competed in the national championships in Bath.

The lessons of Atlanta have yet to be digested. An inquiry into why, after six consistently successful Olympics, Britain failed to win a judo medal this summer will be published later this month.

Colin McIver, the Scottish national coach, who chaired the investigation, said yesterday: "It will advocate radical changes. The system has not worked. However, it is important that rash decisions should not be made and it may take a few months for a proper system to be introduced."

Time is important. The Sports Council want to see proper planning for Lottery funding for individual competitors become available in March. There is little doubt that judo, and a large number of other Olympic sports, are going to benefit enormously from a properly-funded structure.

Young fighters, such as Winston Gordon, will be among the beneficiaries. Only 20, he climaxed an outstanding year, which has included a European junior bronze medal, by winning the middle-weights on Saturday with the dramatic leg throw that slammed Kevin Lynch on his back.

Gordon took the title in the absence of Ryan Birch, the former European champion, who, like most of the Olympic team, preferred to miss the event.

Most of those that did compete understandably were jaded. Julian Davies, a featherweight, who came second in the European championships, lost to Simon Moss, who looked a solid prospect.

The only member of the Atlanta team to win a title was the 32-year-old Joyce Heron, the Scottish bantamweight, who will provide proven ability for a new generation to pit their skills against.

"I'm not getting any younger but I still enjoy competing," Heron said. "However, I know fighting internationally is a different kettle of fish. I'll just take it as it comes."

Nevertheless, she was not the oldest competitor on Saturday. That was light heavyweight Terry Wait, who will be 50 this month. He exercises six times a week and battled through to seventh place.

He competed in the European championships in 1969. In 1972, he represented Ireland in the Olympics and won a bronze medal in the world universities championships. His continuing dedication was an example to everyone. As the Japanese, Hagakure Bushido, wrote: "There is no end to training. Once you begin to feel you are a master, you are no longer on the way you are to follow."

Ayr pay dearly for early injury as Nottingham win ice hockey cup



Cupolo is denied by a desperate block from Robins, the Nottingham goaltender, as another Ayr attack crashes on the Sheffield ice. Photograph: Victoria Matthers

Panthers play role of party animals

In one sport at least, the Mexican Wave is old hat. Crowd participation in ice hockey is now a choreographed art form, sometimes more entertaining than the organised mayhem the spectators turn up to watch, and when Nottingham Panthers and Ayr Scottish Eagles met on Saturday night, they went head to head with James Brown, Little Richard, Gary Glitter and The Beatles. Nottingham prevailed in the Benson and Hedges Cup final, but not until their supporters at the Sheffield Arena had hip-hopped and hippy-hippy-shaked themselves to a frenzy in their 53 victory.

A family-friendly Barby Army has attached itself to ice hockey, a growing audience — the turnstiles clicked two million times last season — of whom 60 per cent are under the age of 30 and 40 per cent are female, one that devours fast food and faster entertainment. Every stoppage in play is the cue to get up and do the Macarena — to name but one dance — and when the foot-stomping stops and the action restarts, the risk is of anticlimax. Some among the 8,560 at Sheffield did go over the top, of course. They were asked to refrain from firing party poppers onto the ice. Yet anyone catching the puck could keep it as a souvenir, as if sticking your hand out to stop a frozen piece of vulcanised rubber travelling at 100 miles an hour is a good idea.

Unlike North America, it is sweat on the ice rather than blood that people want to see, even if Britain's game has not been spared the sport's darker side. In that respect, its administrators need to get to grips with its miscreants. For example, Ryan Kumm, Ayr's Canadian defenceman, was released by the Superleague to play in the final mid-way through a six-game league ban for attacking Hilton Ruggles, of Manchester Storm, but it was an astonishing, misguided decision and removed the option of making any immediate, enforceable disciplinary measures had the match on Saturday not been so good-tempered. Kumm,

Christopher Irvine discovers supporters taking centre stage in a musical revival

wise fellow, was on his best behaviour and a total of three two-minute sin-binnings in an hour of high-speed collision represents, in ice hockey terms, a clean contest.

As if it were possible, the game is speeding up, so perhaps the time to knock lumps from one another is diminishing as standards in a slimmed-down, eight-team Superleague increase. Improvements and the breaking down of all barriers to foreign players, who account for three-quarters of those playing

their trade in the Superleague, are no coincidence.

Nevertheless, the Department of Employment might not be so liberal with work permits in future, so the Superleague had better make the most of its mainly Canadian exiles. Curiously, the first final in the Superleague era featured none of the well-heeled clubs from Sheffield, Cardiff or Manchester. Nottingham have done more than any team to bring in local players, while Ayr are new kids on the rink.

Nottingham are struggling in the Superleague, but when the imposing Derek Laxdal bore down on the unfortunate Sven Rampf, in the Ayr goal, the game was up after just 29 seconds. Two more goals slipped beneath Rampf in a disastrous first period before he succumbed to a groin strain. Colum Cavilla's reminding improved matters, notwithstanding the, illegal, side-footed fourth Nottingham goal by Greg Hadden. Killed supporters tried to intimidate the Panthers' bench, but Jiri Lala's final score for Ayr was merely a gesture as time expired.

The jubilant Panthers, in celebration of their second

Benson and Hedges title in three years, thumped down a jeroobam of Veuve Clicquot before answering questions. Mike Blaisdell, their coach, was not going to remind them about their match the next night. "We got a good game out of guys who had a slump lately," he said. "We were able to add depth to our line-up and we showed we're a different team to the one we've been the last few weeks."

The Ayr story is that of ice hockey in a nutshell, from nutshell to boom. It is not so long ago that rusting padlocks were removed from the Ayr Centre. In three months, the Eagles have built an audience of more than 2,000 — bigger than Ayr United at the top of the Bell's Scottish League second division. Nonetheless, only false dawns outnumber the relaunches of ice hockey in Britain, the glam-rock reincarnation being just the latest, although the outward signs are healthy.

In the tradition of sports dreamt up by Britons — a claim Canada, naturally, disputes — this country has been skating on thin ice since an Olympic Games gold medal in 1936. Yet Great Britain are two wins away from the final qualifying stages of a first Olympic appearance since 1948. No other national team could rely on such fervent support, provided the music is right. Late on Saturday, Ayr supporters could still muster a Macarena in defeat.

BASKETBALL

Salary cap suspicions give Bears sore heads

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE expertise shown by rival Budweiser League clubs in keeping within the salary cap has long mystified Colin Smith, the Worthing Bears director, who would rather lose good players than bend the rules by exceeding the £135,000 limit per team.

It was after his struggling Bears had succumbed 96-78 at home to the Leopards on Saturday that Smith spoke out. Like most of the previous nine teams to have defeated them in the league this season, the Leopards employed five Americans, but whatever the temptations to match their success — the Leopards are now joint second — Smith will not bend the rules.

"Some clubs have the ability to work within the salary cap very well," he said. "It's remarkable how they get value for money, but if they could only explain to the Chancellor how they do it, the Government could benefit."

The departures during the summer of Colin Irish, the Bears' player-coach, and Alan Cunningham left Irish's successor, Cleave Lewis, fighting a losing battle, which was not helped by fortunes conspiring against two of the newcomers.

Ernesto Moreno, the sure-shooting Spaniard, could not settle, and Shawn Graham, the American, arrived with chronic knee trouble. The recent departures of both men have left Worthing with a vacancy that they would love to fill with Spencer Dunkley. The England international, who has fallen out with his French club, Limoges, would not come cheap, even if it was only for the rest of the season. "You know us," Smith said. "We won't spend money we haven't got."

Worthing have not been helped over the past two games by the absence of Neil McElduff, their coach, whose wife has just had a baby girl. "We expected him back to-night," Smith said. "We even had a bouquet ready for his wife."

Lacking direction in McElduff's absence, the Bears nevertheless possessed the game's top-scorer in James Hamilton, whose attempt to add to his 25 points ended in huge embarrassment. Going for a dunk on the final buzzer, the American made an unrecognised hash of his shot. Lewis collected five three-pointers among his 20 points, but with all ten Leopards on the score-sheet, headed by the 22-point marksman, John White, the visitors finished with plenty in hand.

In the 7-Up Trophy, Chester Jets made certain of their place in the quarter-finals by winning 104-100 away to Leicester Riders, whose coach, Bob Donewald, was ejected for the second time this season after incurring two technical offences for protests. Chester's scorers were led by Hilary Scott, with 24 points.

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Lynch may rue selection mistakes

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AN ICE hockey coach probably makes more decisions in the course of one evening than the average cricket captain has to make in a month. The most crucial, as in cricket, often concerns who should be playing and Jim Lynch, of the Ayr Scottish Eagles, had such a choice to make before the Benson and Hedges Cup final in Sheffield on Saturday. He got it wrong.

His No 1 goaltender, Sven Rampf, had been in wonderful form, but had a niggling groin problem. Having to change direction quickly in

the first minute of the game, he tweaked the injury and Nottingham Panthers had the lead after only 29 seconds.

A crazy deflection gave the Panthers a second goal in the two-minute interval, but although the Eagles pulled one back, it was 3-1 to Nottingham with only a quarter of the game gone and, two minutes from the end of the first period, Rampf, having been beaten by three of only ten shots he had faced, bowed to the inevitable.

His replacement, Colum Cavilla, could not have played much better and was named the Ayr man of the

match at the end of the evening, but not before he had conceded two goals. The first of these proved how high the odds were stacked against Ayr. Even without the advantage of video replay, used in the National Hockey League in North America but not in this country, it was clear to the television viewer that Greg Hadden kicked the puck into the net.

Lynch might also regret playing Alan Schuler, who had not appeared since breaking his jaw in the semi-final six weeks ago. Schuler seemed to have problems with the pace of the game and

it was his mistake that led to the third Nottingham goal, just when the Eagles seemed to be coming back into the game towards the end of the first period.

Jiri Lala did give Ayr some hope when he made the score 5-3 with more than 12 minutes remaining, but they could not find a way through the well-organised Nottingham defence again.

Thus Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, showed how good he is at preparing his team for an important one-off occasion. Now he is hoping to repeat such form in the league.

NETBALL

England seeking boost from youth

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

SPORTING grazed knees and ponytails, English schoolgirls have played netball since the First World War and, superficially at least, the game today seems reassuringly similar.

In reality, though, the sport is adjusting to the demands of the 1990s and confronting a number of issues in the process. There is sexual equality, with males increasingly playing, particularly in primary schools. Then there is violence, with a proposal to introduce football-style red and yellow cards. There is even amateurism, with the England netball team theoretically eligible for National Lottery-funded subsistence grants of up to £28,000, which would enable the players to turn professional.

Perhaps more significantly, the wind of change is also gusting through the England squad as Liz Broomhead, the national coach, aims to improve the team's world ranking — the squad appears to have been stuck in fourth place for ever.

Moving forward, however, sometimes entails a step back and this is how the recent 3-0 Test series defeat to a touring Jamaica side is being seen at Netball House, the game's Herfordshire base. That series saw the senior debuts of five players promoted from

the Under-21s: Chantal Mortimer, a student at Cambridge University, as goalkeeper; Amanda Newton, a London sports shop assistant, at goal defence; Tracey Neville, the sister of Gary and Philip, of Manchester United footballers and a trainee primary school teacher, at goal attack; Lisa Stanley, a Sainsbury's checkout girl in Sunderland, at goal shooter; and Helen Lonsdale, a student at Salford University, at wing attack.

That quintet not only reflect the cross-section of women that play netball, they were also all part of the England youth side that won bronze at the world youth championships in Toronto last summer. Their progression through the ranks has been fostered by Fiona Murrigh, the new England captain, who has replaced Kendra Slawinski. The latter may have retired, but she is now coaching the next generation of international netballers.

Several such protégées were in action during the monthly Inter-Counties League fixtures on Saturday. The season is still young but England's leading county, Essex, are already favourites for the title and catered to a 78-37 victory against Nottinghamshire.

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SAILING: OLYMPIC GAMES SILVER MEDAL-WINNER WITH THE WORLD AT HIS FEET OUTLINES HIS NEXT OBJECTIVES

Ainslie decides to stay with Laser

Edward Gorman on a yachtsman who is engagingly modest about his success

FOUR months ago Ben Ainslie gave the profile of yacht racing in this country an immeasurable boost. At 19 he was the youngest ever member of a Great Britain sailing team. He went on to become the youngest ever medal-winner, capturing a silver after a thrilling dog-fight with the world No 1 in the Laser class, Robert Scheidt, of Brazil.

Ainslie single-handedly put the sport on the front pages and made the biggest impact in the television coverage of sailing at the Games, introducing yacht racing to many who have never followed it before, among them many young girls and boys determined to follow in his wake.

Alongside him at the medal ceremony in Savannah were Britain's other success story at the Olympic regatta, John Merricks and Ian Walker, who won silver in the 470s, but it was clear even then that Ainslie's precocious talent had made him the feature of the Games for British yachting.

Since coming back Ainslie has been given various achievement awards and has been in demand on the children's television circuit. He has been offered book contracts, and his name has been mentioned — with or without his permission — by all sorts of people in yachting who want the shine of his medal on their latest project. Britain's fastest young

yachtsman has, however, got his feet firmly on the ground. Next season he has turned down the opportunity to join the crew of Merricks's Mumm 36 in the British Admiral's Cup team. He has turned down the chance to helm a Melges 24 on the European circuit, as well as numerous other sailing invitations.

Instead he is staying with his Laser, where his focus and ambition is as ferociously intense as at any time in the past 12 months. His first objective is to retain his European title next year in

Portugal and then win the world championships in Chile next October. That will mean another showdown with Scheidt, who has won the title twice already and is hunting a third. "It would be nice to beat him — I haven't beaten him before — it would be nice to sort that out," he said.

In the long run Ainslie's goal is gold in Lasers at the Sydney Games in 2000, which was his original plan last year, until he found himself going for Savannah after winning the national trials. Meanwhile he is back

at college in Winchester doing a couple of A-levels and he drives there from his parents' rented home in Lymington every day in a car given to him for a year by Audi.

He has also been doing the odd bit of sailing to keep his hand in. In two world championship qualifiers at Torquay and Hayling Island he won nine of the ten races he sailed. Then he went to Kawaii, where he won an invitational regatta with opposition including Peer Moberg, of Norway, and Hamish Pepper, of New Zealand. Ainslie's numbers were 4, 9, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1. His prize: \$10,000.

Ainslie is still a shy young man, but he is more confident than 12 months ago and he can cope with the pressure of being the great hope of British yachting. "Comments like that I just try not to take in," he said. "I know what I want to do and I know I have the ability to do it and that's all that matters."

Of his choices when the world is at his feet, he said: "It'd be easy to do the Admiral's Cup and Melges sailing and end up in a mess at the end. Maybe I would if I was 32 or something and running out of time. The Europeans and worlds are good realistic goals and going for Sydney will be the best thing for my sailing in the long term. It's good hard to push the other opportunities away but it's the right thing to do or I'd end up doing a lot of things badly."



Ainslie chewing over the offer of book contracts

French pair added to list of casualties

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TO FINISH first, first you have to finish: in no other yacht race is that more true than the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race. The weekend saw two more competitors fall by the wayside in the Roaring Forties, reducing the field, originally 15-strong, to ten.

The leading skipper, Christophe Auguin, of France, on *Geodis*, is 500 miles ahead of his nearest pursuer, but still has 15,000 miles to go to the finish. The latest casualties were his compatriots, Yves Parlier, on *Aquiline Innovations*, and Thierry Dubois, the youngest skipper in the race, on *Pour Amnesty International*.

Dubois was the first to report his retirement, when lying in eleventh position on Friday night, after he hit something drifting past the boat that broke his starboard rudder just below the hull.

"I am giving up, I haven't got the strength to do a third start," a dejected Dubois, who was 2,700 miles behind Auguin, said. He was on his second start after a similar collision in the Bay of Biscay had forced him to return to Les Sables D'Olonne shortly after the fleet set off on November 3.

Parlier had led the race on the way south through the Canaries until his forestry

broke. He managed to rig a replacement, and was holding third position — about 700 miles adrift of Auguin in the Indian Ocean — when he hit a growler, a small piece of ice that had broken away from an iceberg, and snapped his port rudder.

"I can't repair this on my own," he reported from a position about 850 miles southeast of Cape Town. He is now sailing to Albany, Australia, for repairs.

Parlier joins fellow French skipper Isabelle Autissier, who broke a rudder last week but has restarted from Cape Town, and Didier Maudrigny, and the Hungarian, Nandor Fa, in being put out of the race.

Those still at sea include the two Britons, Pete Goss, on *Aqua Quorum*, who is seventh, and Tony Bullimore, on *Exide Challenger*, who is tenth.

Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, is the new leader of the BT Global Challenge as the yachts continue westwards through the Southern Ocean, where conditions have moderated and brought welcome glimpses of the sun. Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, who led round Cape Horn, is second, with Mervyn Owen's *Global Teamwork* third.

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Harlequins unable to stem Bath flood

Bath 35
Harlequins 20

By PETER BILLS

THE passengers on the SS *Poseidon* would have sympathised with Harlequins' plight on Saturday. They were sailing happily along and in fine fettle when something came over the horizon and swamped them.

In the film it was a tidal wave. At the Recreation Ground on Saturday, Bath hit them in the second half with so ferocious a surge of energy and adrenalin that Harlequins were submerged. It might have contained an element of ghoulishness to sit and watch a rugby team floundering but, as a spectacle, it was compelling.

The origins of this extraordinary Bath performance lay in the period half-time allowed them to catch their breath after Harlequins had established a 17-3 lead. Such was the Londoners' ascendancy in pursuit of their first league win over Bath, it should have been even more emphatic.

Bath changed the course of a wonderful game — quite probably the entire Courage Clubs Championship this season and possibly the make-up of the England international side — in the few moments allotted for reflection.

John Hall, the director of rugby and Philip de Glanville, the captain, found words that were to prove so motivational that Bath should package and sell them to businessmen as a proven formula. "The season is over for you, that's the reality," Bath's outplayed men were told. "If this match is lost



Lyle, the Bath forward, leaps high to gain lineout possession

there is no way we can retain the title. Our title. You have only one choice — save your season by getting a grip on yourselves individually, cut out the mistakes you are making and focus on what you do best and the type of rugby you know you can play.

"Take a long hard look at yourselves. Do it for each other. Can you look your colleagues in the eye and say you have really given your best? Or can you do more? We think you can." The result of this one-way conversation out on a field with 8,000 people watching, some from a city bridge and others from windows of flats above the ground, was phenomenal. It would be too trite to say Harlequins fell away, unable to

sustain the pace of the forward driving game they played so splendidly in the first half. The fact is they continued to battle mightily to stem the attacks Bath rained down upon them. But they failed. To lose a first half 17-3 to the league leaders but win the second 32-3 is testimony to Bath's enduring legend.

Mendez and Lyle were the two principles who turned the contest around upfront with their forceful driving play. Lyle, an American, is no long-term solution to their lineout weakness but as a No 6 he could have almost as big an impact on English rugby as Mendez surely will.

Behind them, Guscott was the elegant rapier who teased and tor-

mented the dring Harlequins. Speed of thought and foot put him in position for his first try immediately after half-time, which launched Bath's comeback, and he added another at the end. This morning England announce their side to meet Argentina on Saturday and Guscott's craft, cutting edge and pace in midfield cannot be ignored any longer. England might also reflect on Callard's continuing value to any team with his reliable goalkicking.

Harlequins were outstanding before half-time. Challinor's try after a 75-yard movement begun by Harries, being supreme. As Hall said: "I was relieved we turned around only 17-3 down." When Bath were on fire after half-time they put points on the board even more efficiently.

SCORERS: Bath: Tress, Guscott (2), Thomas, Ashmore, Conventers; Callard (2), Penalty goals: Callard (2), Harlequins: Tress, Harries, Challinor; Conventers; Challinor (2). Penalty goals: Challinor (2).

BATH: J Callard, J Robinson, P de Glanville, J Guscott, A Ashmore, M Call, J Harries, D Hilton, F Mendez, J McKitt, N Thomas, M Hogg, D Lyle, E Polere, S Oporoh; Harlequins: J Staples, S Bromley, P Menach, W Carling, D Luger, P Challinor, H Harries, L Berrisford, K Wood, A Milkins, R Jenkins, Slyn Llewellyn, Gareth Llewellyn, L Cabannes, W Davison, Dawson replaced by G Allison (80min), Bromley replaced by R Paul (74), Staples replaced by H Brown (79).

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Jim Staples, the Ireland full back, could miss the five nations' championship after suffering a fractured jaw in a clash of heads with Adebayo Adebayo at the Recreation Ground. He faces a minimum three-month lay-off. Adebayo left the field as a result of their 75th-minute collision, although he should be fit for the international match next Saturday against Argentina if selected.

RUGBY UNION: FORWARD THINKING STIFLES NORTHAMPTON'S RUNNING GAME

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Townsend halted by Leicester's pack drill

Leicester 23
Northampton 9

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IN A battle between two rugby philosophies, Leicester's forward might triumphed once again yesterday. The life was squeezed out of Northampton in a draining encounter in which their brave attempts to run flourished on the rocks of the indomitable home pack.

For those who value substance above style, it was a cheering afternoon. When Northampton backs were broken, a try by Stuart Potter in the second minute of injury time put an unmerited gloss on Leicester's victory and maintenance of their unbeaten home record in the Courage Clubs Championship, which keeps them nicely placed in the trio of clubs trailing Wasps by two points.

Northampton's third defeat has probably caused irrevocable damage to their championship aspirations. Like others who have come to Welford Road determined to out-muscle and outrun Leicester, the best-laid plans came to nothing. In the merciful Gregor Townsend they had comfortably the most exciting player on the pitch, but no amount of subtle touches by the Scotland captain could combat the momentum of Leicester's yeomanry pack.

Of Townsend, Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said: "He gives you a heart attack every time he gets the ball." The same cannot be said of his own team, whose performance Dwyer described as rusty in parts. Leicester's abiding quality is their resolute toughness.

Reports continue to link Joel Stransky with Leicester. The

South African would certainly find life there different. At stand-off half, Rob Liley is not a creator and when Townsend caught him high, John, his older brother, stepped into the place-kicking breach with three successful attempts from five.

In spite of the mist and cold, only the fourth Sunday fixture at the ground attracted 11,839. Leicester's biggest attendance this season. The novelty caught some out. The start was delayed by five minutes for latecomers.

Leicester crowds are unlike others. To them, a rolling maul is the sweetest thing, a pushover try positively exquisite. Under Dwyer, the former disciple of running rugby, little has changed. His Australian sides were built on slick hands. On the few occasions yesterday that the ball emerged from the forwards its appearance was greeted with as much surprise as a shooting star.

Behind Healey, at scrum half, and his dominant eight, not much stirred. Townsend, playing where he should be at stand-off, was all cultured poise in midfield. Bell, too, had an incisive game, cutting through at angles and causing problems. All too often, though, possession went to ground, or attackers met a wall of tacklers. In defence, in particular, Neil Back had a splendid game on his league return from suspension.

It was a confident move that set up Townsend up for opening score, a dropped goal. When Dean Richards raced 20 metres from a scrum, Dwyer said that a cattle prod must have been used to prompt the old warhorse. Richards strained his groin in the process, but his move led to Rob Liley's penalty goal.



Richards, left, collides with Rodber, the Northampton No 8, yesterday

Although Northampton nicked two scrums against the head, their deliberate collapsing of the scrum and various front-row shenanigans underlined their fear of Leicester's forward game. Their worst fears were realised in the 23rd minute when Back emerged from the bottom of a maul for a try. It set the tone and Northampton were always in vain pursuit.

Grayson and the older Liley exchanged penalties before the break. After another deliberate collapse, Liley slotted another to extend the lead to

16-6 on the hour. The second half was notable, too, for the sand-bagging punches exchanged between Healey and Clarke, all witnessed from the touchline by David Matthews, except the touch judge chose to turn a blind eye. When eventually spotted, the two were ordered to shake hands.

It is Northampton's fate not to win at Leicester. They have managed it only once in 21 meetings. Grayson's second penalty put them a converted try away from levelling the scores but, as hard as they chased, Northampton could

not keep their hands on the ball. By the finish Leicester were camped on their line and, from a third scrum, their ranks opened for Potter to crash through.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tress, Back, Potter; Conventers: R Liley, J Liley; Penalty goals: J Liley (2), R Liley; Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson (2). Dropped goals: Townsend.

LEICESTER: J Liley, S Hedgley, W Grayson, S Potter, L Lloy, R Liley, A Healey, G Rowlands, R Cookland, D Gifford, J Wells, M Johnson, R Field, Back, D Richards; Richards replaced by E Miller (71min).

NORTHAMPTON: P Grayson, N Best, J Bell, M Allen, H Thornycroft, G Townsend, M Dawson, M Volland, A Clarke, M Hyman, J Cassell, J Phillips, J Chandler, A Rounimey, T Rodder, Alan replaced by I Hunter (75). Referee: A Spradbury (Bristol).

Sale deny Saracens chance to celebrate new arrival

Saracens 17
Sale 17

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THIS was not quite the style with which Saracens hoped to celebrate signing Francois Pienaar last week. The gloom of a dark, dank afternoon was alleviated for the North London club yesterday only by the salvaging of a Courage Clubs Championship point that keeps both them and Sale on the fringe of the group chasing a top-three place in the first division.

Sale, whose home defeat of Harlequins at the end of October confirmed their ambitions, will regret the loss of a 17-6 interval lead, but no more than the complete absence of continuity that is a characteristic of their game. For that, John Mitchell, their coach, was inclined to blame the match official, a concern that was shared by Saracens.

Tappe Henning, from South Africa, will handle England's international with England this Saturday and by then, perhaps, he will have relaxed the rigid stance he brought to Enfield. His first-half concerns with the set scrums may have been justified, but neither side was allowed to develop play at ruck or maul and, consequently, the faithful who braved the misty afternoon were treated to a stop-start display of which neither club will be proud.

Mitchell's frustration as he patrolled the touchline was obvious, although it extended to his own team, who lost their way in the second half. Their possession dwindled, the absence of John Fowler and Charlie Vyvyan — both injured during the abortive Counties of Origin series — began to tell and the bright start that earned 11 points in as many minutes became a distant memory. Even so, had Mannix been more consistent with his goal-kicking, Sale could have been out of sight by the interval.

Mannix kicked four penalties, but missed two more, as well as a dropped-goal attempt and the conversion of McCartney's try after the big lock was driven over from a lineout won by his partner, Baldwin. Yet Mannix compensated by organising his midfield well, while Lynagh, his opposite number, suffered by comparison. The Australian was unwell last week and his game and goal-kicking were distinctly off-colour.

His two successful goals served to keep Saracens in touch until they could construct some kind of game from the amorphous mess into which play descended. They started to drive down the middle and the penalty count in their favour rose. From one such award, five metres from the Sale line, Bracken took the tap and Oliver was driven over.

Lynagh's fourth penalty levelled matters, then Mannix missed his chance when well within dropped-goal range. However, deep into injury-time, Lynagh missed a 38-metre penalty and neither side could claim to have been robbed.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tress; Oliver; Penalty goals: Lynagh (4); Sale: Tress; McCartney; Penalty goals: Mannix (4). SARACENS: M Evans, K Chesney, J Buckton, S Rowlands, R Wallace, J Lynch, P Bracken, A Oliver, G Bottomley, P Wallston, G Clark, P Johns, A Coppen, RHM, A Dwyer, P Wallston temporarily replaced by C O'Leary (20-28min). SALE: J McIndoe, J Dwan, J Rowland, G Stoddart, T Green, S Murray, D Meade, P Winstanley, S Diamond, A Smith, D O'Grady, R McCartney, D Baldwin, A Moore, G Collins, A Mann temporarily replaced by N Ashurst (43-52 and 28-31); Winstanley temporarily replaced by L Hewson (46-27min). Referee: T Henning (South Africa).

King shows his composure

Wasps 15
Bristol 13

By BRYAN STILES

IF ENGLAND needed to know whether Alex King, their reserve stand-off half, can kick goals under pressure, his match-winning penalty goal in injury time for Wasps on Saturday should dispel any doubts. He displayed nerves of steel for what was his first goal kick of the match.

With the referee having already added almost five minutes for injuries, with Wasps trailing by one point and striving for a victory that would take them to the top of the Courage Clubs Championship table, the pressure could not have been tighter. He knew he could not afford to miss — and sent the ball straight between the posts.

With Jon Ufton, the usually reliable regular kicker, having missed five out of six kicks at goal, King stepped up in response to a pre-match plan. A bearded King said later: "It

was a bit dreamy really because I often think about kicking an important goal in the last minute. Jon [Ufton] had a bit of a shocker and I knew that last one would be up to me. Just before I kicked Inga [Tuigamala] said 'good luck' and the next thing the lads were jumping all over me."

It was a score that brought Wasps the two league points that enabled them to leapfrog Harlequins, who lost to Bath at the Recreation Ground. The goal also produced an enthralling climax to a wonderful, free-flowing match that neither side deserved to lose and that must have left lowly Bristol cursing the rugby gods. They were almost completely dominant in the second half and deserved at least two more tries.

Wasps would have been happier if the match had been played yesterday to avoid clashing with televised rugby. They claim they would have trebled their 2,500 gate. Bristol declined to switch as they had scheduled a game for tonight.

Wasps began the match as if they were going to put struggling Bristol firmly in their place, moving the ball quickly around the field and exploiting gaps.

They were 12-0 ahead in 20 minutes as sustained pressure by forwards and backs punctured the Bristol defence and let in King and White for tries, the first of which Ufton converted. Burke replied with a penalty goal and Hull went over in the corner to make it 12-8 at the interval. Bristol's pack took the game to Wasps and Corkery dived over from a lineout to give them a one-point lead. It looked enough to secure victory until King produced his match-winner.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tress, King, White; Conventers: Ufton; Penalty goal: King; Bristol: Tress; Hull, Corkery; Penalty goal: Burke.

WASPS: J Ufton, P Sampson, N Gwentz, V Tuigamala, S Frazier, A King, A Gomez, D Mulvey, S Mitchell, W Green, I Dudgeon, D Cronin, A Heald, M White, C Sharry; Green replaced by I Dunsford (70min). BRISTOL: P Hull, D Tunt, S Meath, M Donnelly, B Brezoz, P Burke, R Smith, A Sharp, M Pagan, D Henders, D Conroy, S Shaw, C English, S Fife, M Corry; Corry replaced by C Barron (81min). Referee: A Watson (Ireland).

Irish bow to Mapletoft

Gloucester 29
London Irish 19

By A CORRESPONDENT

GLoucester began their Courage Clubs Championship season with five defeats and, at the end of September, looked to be in trouble. Two months later, four wins from nine games looks a lot healthier and there is a cheery, cherry glow at Kingsholm.

London Irish, meanwhile, have yet to find their way out of the basement and their hope lies in the pedigree of their team — eight full internationals were in this line-up. They provided Gloucester with a tough battle.

"They will surprise a lot of people before the end of this season," Richard Hill, the director of rugby at Gloucester, said. "They have got a lot of talent there, but that was a good win for us because, if we had slipped up, they would have closed to within two points of us and we have got to go there after Christmas."

This Gloucester team is young, but its talent outweighs its inexperience and every week the players become more streetwise. Hill had told them to expect an aerial bombardment from David Humphreys; when that did not materialise, they had to change their tactics. David Sims, the captain, and Scott Benton and Mark Mapletoft, at half back, found the solution. Hill's only complaint was that it took them 40 minutes to do so.

The game was played at breakneck speed. Irish were dangerous on the break; Gloucester preferred to use their kicking game, with Mapletoft turning the screw. He set up Gloucester's decisive second try with a towering kick to the foot of the Irish posts, and watched in delight as Martin Roberts collected the ball and crashed over. Mapletoft converted and produced a dropped goal in the last five minutes to put Gloucester clear.

As he often does, Mapletoft kept Gloucester in the hunt by

putting every penalty attempt on target in the first half. Irish breached the defences when the impressive Rob Henderson claimed his two tries in the first period, but three penalty goals by Mapletoft to two from Humphreys served Gloucester well. On the only occasion that they went behind, it took just three minutes before Benton scored in for a try.

The score was 16-16 at half-time and the stand-off halves exchanged penalty goals before Gloucester edged ahead and stayed there.

"I feel the confidence comes into this side with every win," Hill said. "There is a belief they are not going to lose."

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tress, Benton, Roberts; Conventers: Mapletoft (2); Penalty goals: Mapletoft (4); Dropped goal: Mapletoft; London Irish: Tress, Henderson (2); Penalty goals: Humphreys (3). GLoucester: C Callum, M Peters, A Sainsbury, M Roberts, A Lupton, M Mapletoft, S Benton, A Wingo, P Greening, P Vickery, P Glanville, R Piller, D Sims, N Carter, S Dwan; Sainsbury replaced by D Carter (60min). LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, N Wood, R Henderson, S Sims, J Bishop, D Hart, P O'Connell, S Barton, A Wingo, P Greening, K O'Connell, J Davidson, M O'Kelly, K Dawson, V Costello; Henderson replaced by G Frazer (87min). Referee: S Carrasco (Wales).

RUGBY UNION: AUSTRALIANS BREAK SHACKLES IN TOUR FINALE AND SERVE UP FEAST OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR CAMPESE'S SWANSONG

Burke shows pattern of the future

Barbarian life over for one of a dying breed

Barbarians..... 12
Australia XV..... 39

By GERALD DAVIES

IN BRINGING to an end their 12-match tour of the Celtic countries, the Australians demonstrated once more their virtues of strength and power in taking the game forward. Their comprehensive ability in continuing to win and maintain possession of the ball is instrumental in this.

"In such a way," Rob Andrew, the Barbarians captain, said, "we are capable of keeping a tight grip on any match." They did so here.

Itaking a 27-point lead by halftime, they had also displayed a facet of their game that they had hitherto refrained from showing. "As we as being a well-drilled team," Andrew said, "they're also exciting, quick and strong in the back line." Until Saturday this had been their best-kept secret on their undefeated tour, on which, in the main, they had failed to inspire.

With the international matches out of the way and the sense of national pride and fear of losing no longer so

acute at stake, the Australians were prepared, in facing the Barbarians, to gambol along in the spirit that so often injures their opponents' play.

The Australians gambled a little more, but were not extravagant in any sense. They were nonetheless willing to do their threequarters a full part in the proceedings. They gave Horan time to chase his arm and allowed Rob and Campepe to enjoy opportunities to stretch their leg and indulge in the occasional sleight of hand, but it was the insistent intrusions of Mather Burke, from full back, that tantalised the crowd of 3,000.

He had a majestic afternoon. Indeed, for 39 minutes he dominated the scoreboard so much that the 20 points that his team had scored all belonged to him. Showing supreme control in the scrum, he had outstripped the beleaguered Barbarians defence to score twice, converted both and kicked two penalty goals. He might have scored a third try had he not been tackled when shot of the line. With one play having accomplished so much, it was with a sense of relief that the crowd greeted another name on the scoreboard. Joe Roff scored the third, but, even here, Burke was the catalyst.



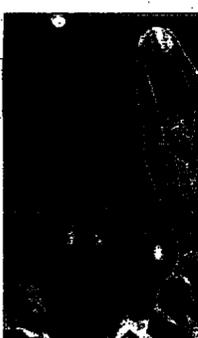
Right to the end of his career in an Australian jersey, which concluded against the Barbarians, Campepe continued to delve into his bag of tricks

Campepe's long, flighted pass, in midfield and deep in his own half, was in danger of arriving with Burke at the same time as a would-be tackler, but full of pace and power, he showed that he had the delicate touch, too. His fingertip tip shifted the ball to create space for Horan, who paved the way for Roff to score the try. This completed Burke's peerless first-half performance.

With such an incisive talent in their midst, the test for the Australian management is whether, as Alan Jones and Bob Dwyer accomplished in the past with Campepe, it has the desire and courage to allow such exceptional talent its head, for while the power of this Australian team is in no doubt, its overall potential looks vastly unfulfilled.

The foundation of their success in a match sponsored by Scottish Amicable was laid, naturally, at forward, particularly by a voracious back row that invariably won the mar-

ginal ball on the ground. They rarely committed the errors that the Barbarians did. Only Scott Quinnell could match them and he will, no doubt, force the Wales selectors to consider him before they announce, this morning, their



Gavin illustrates Australian dominance at Twickenham

team to pay South Africa on Sunday. His efforts were duly rewarded with a try as the Barbarians made a gesture of response late in the second half. Bateman, who also had a fine match, scored the other.

By this stage, though, the Australians had already extended their lead with tries by Campepe and Horan.

For the Barbarians to make an impression on any future tourings sides — if such fixtures are to continue — they need to fill their team with high-ranking players of proven ability at international level. A full complement was not present over the weekend.

This is a tall order, but, to play such rugby as they wish, the Barbarians must invite the best players. Their style, if it is to flourish, requires players of the highest talent, but that they are not always able to do so is out of their hands and is in the gift of others. Rob Andrew was unequivocal. It will be a very sad day indeed, he felt, if in 50 years, we are in a position to lament the absence of the Barbarians.

While questions are raised on these shores about the value of the Barbarians' continued existence, the French, for their part, want to extend

their participation, as do the New Zealanders. As with so much else in the present traumatic state of rugby here, we can rely, no doubt, on the governing authorities to get this one wrong, too.

SCORERS: Barbarians: Tries: Bateman, S Quinnell. Conversion: Andrew. Australia XV: Tries: Burke (2), Roff, Horan, Campepe. Conversion: Burke (4). Penalty goals: Burke (2).

BARBARIANS: T. Stimpson (Newcastle and England); M. West (Cardiff and Wales); A. Bateman (Richmond and Wales); G. Townsend (Northampton and Scotland); T. Lindwood (Newcastle and England); R. Andrew (Newcastle and England, captain); R. Howley (Cardiff and Wales); N. Poplewell (Newcastle and Ireland); N. Hewitt (Southland and New Zealand); D. Garforth (London and New Zealand); C. O'Connell (Richmond and Wales); I. Jones (North Harbour and New Zealand); N. Bask (Leicester and England); S. Ollivier (Richmond and Wales); Stimpson replaced by J. Sheehy (Western Province and South Africa); Howley replaced by A. Moore (Richmond and Wales); S. Townsend replaced by M. Allen (Northampton); C. Curran replaced by G. West (Newcastle and Scotland); 78.

AUSTRALIA XV: M. Burke, J. Roff, D. Horan (captain), D. Campepe, P. Howard, S. Payne, D. Crowley, M. Caputo, A. Bades, D. Worrall, D. Gilin, T. Gawn, O. Finigan, M. Ball. Ball replaced by B. Robinson (28); Caputo replaced by M. Foley (24); Howard replaced by R. Tombs (78); Bades replaced by A. Heath (78); Burke replaced by S. Latham (77m).
Referee: E. Morrison (Bristol).

South Africans pledge to turn Wales match into a festival

France..... 12
South Africa..... 13

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

THE hard part of their tour, of their year, is over. South Africa's best players have a week in Wales before returning home at the conclusion of what their coach, André Markgraaff, describes as "the toughest international year in the history of our country," and they are going to enjoy themselves.

Only one training session is planned this week before the international against Wales on Sunday, which Markgraaff describes as a "festival game." This may not be how Kevin Bowring, his opposite

number, sees it, but Markgraaff is entitled to relax. For a man who received death threats after his choice of the touring party — in particular the decision to omit that most recent of Saracens, Francois Pienaar — the last month has proved something of a justification.

It has produced two victories in Argentina, two victories over France and a promise that the ultimate benefits will be seen against the British Isles next summer. A lot can happen before then, however, as the French can remind Markgraaff his players have to pick an injury-free way through the Super 12 tournament before the British Isles team arrives in May.

Two first-choice wings, a centre and a stand-off were missing from the France team that failed by so narrow a margin to win a frustra-

ting match at the Parc des Princes on Saturday, never mind a prop and a lock. Of that sextet, Philippe Saint-André and Olivier Romain will miss the five nations' championship, which removes authority, experience and try-scoring potential from the side.

Yet France, lifted by a powerful display by Pelous at the lineout, came within touching distance of a win that would have squared the series — the final act saw Kruger deflect Lemaître's injury-time dropped goal, from much the same part of the pitch that Castaignède dropped the goal that beat England last season. They did so despite an error-strewn, tactically-flawed performance that must raise a doubt over the state of South African rugby.

"We are trying to change our

whole game plan in South Africa," Markgraaff said. One that is not hinged upon defence, which was crucial on Saturday, but employs the varied talents of his team and which could be dimly discerned. Yet there are few new names in this team, it is firmly underpinned by those who won a World Cup 18 months ago and it lapsed into the habit that has, on occasions, let down such powerful provincial sides as Natal in the Currie Cup.

When South Africa had achieved a ten-point lead they sat back and failed to impose themselves. The quality of their defence is such that they have good reason to rely upon its absorbent qualities, yet only Derek Bevan's interpretation of a knock-out denied Venditti a try. Dourthe nibbled away the lead with penalties and any team that places

itself in a position where a fortuitous dropped goal can deny them can hardly claim significant playing authority.

There was a mature patience to South Africa in the first half, a period when Gary Teichmann seemed everywhere. Indeed the first five minutes encapsulated the match: a bustling French start, confident sidestepping by Lemaître and a diagonal kick into the South African 22, only for the lineout to be lost and Honiball's powerful boot to take play back beyond halfway. At times Honiball was less than accurate but is almost always assured of gaining ground.

The game's only try was excellent, a movement drifting right before the ball travelled left through Kruger, in the scrum-half position, Andrews playing midfield and Dal-

ton accepting Olivier's deft short pass. That is the nub of Markgraaff's ambition for his team: three forwards comfortable in their exposed role in the middle of the park.

SCORERS: France: Penalty goals: Dourthe (4). South Africa: Try: Dalton. Conversion: Honiball. Penalty goals: Honiball (2).

FRANCE: H. Sudan (Colombes); L. Laffont (Bourgnon); R. Dourthe (Dijon); S. Glas (Bourgnon); D. Venditti (Bordeaux); C. Lemaître (Bordeaux); G. Teichmann (Toulouse); M. Dalmas (Agen); F. Tournat (Narbonne); P. Baretton (Agen); O. Merle (Montpellier); F. Pelous (Castel); G. Castet (Bordeaux); A. Benazzi (Agen, captain); Benetton replaced by M. Lévêque (Périgord); 67min. Tournat replaced by J.-J. Guéhen (Agen).

SOUTH AFRICA: A. J. Joubert (Natal); J. T. Small (Natal); J. C. Muller (Transvaal); H. P. le Roux (Transvaal); J. Olliver (Northern Transvaal); H. W. Honiball (Natal); J. H. van der Westhuizen (Northern Transvaal); D. Thebus (Gauteng West); J. Dalton (Gauteng); A. C. Gansley (Natal); R. A. Kruger (Northern Transvaal); J. J. Wiese (Transvaal); M. G. Andrews (Natal); A. G. Venter (Free State); G. H. Teichmann (Natal, captain).

Referee: W. D. Bovan (Wales).

David Campepe is a disciple of the Oscar Wilde school of publicity. There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about — and that is not being talked about. So, the man who has his life-size pictures of himself pinned to his bedroom wall had his web site number printed on his baseball cap on Saturday. Out of sight, maybe; out of mind, never.

It was appropriate that Campepe should leave the international field in the company of the Barbarians, except that he was on the wrong side. There has always been much of the Barbarian in Campepe, a love of freestyle, a hatred of the straitjacket, of the creed that states that thou shalt not try to run the ball from your own half nor in any way place entertainment above a dedication to victory. The paradox with Campepe is that the first self-proclaimed rugby millionaire (in lire, perhaps) should actually preach the most amateur of attitudes.

He was at it again in a Radio 5 Live interview on Saturday morning, shamelessly provoked by Ian Robertson, the interviewer, into his favourite rant. English rugby was "a joke," he said, "behind the southern hemisphere in terms of commitment to attack, stuck in a sterile world of forward domination and tactical kicking. He poured scorn on Jon Sleightholme for daring to suggest that England were able to compete with New Zealand and Australia — "after all, he has played three tests now, so he must be an expert" — and ridiculed Jack Rowell, the England coach, for suggesting that defeat by the New Zealand Barbarians was part of the "learning process". Australians, he suggested, did not go onto the rugby field to learn.

Unfortunately, Rob Andrew, the butt of much of the Campepe's criticism in the past, lent some weight to the claims with some schizophrenic diatribe behind the Barbarians' scrum at Twickenham. At one point, the most ruthless exponent of the keep-it-tight brigade went to kick routinely for touch, changed his mind and tried to run the ball from behind his own line.

Campepe might have got away with it, but Andrew has never been cut out for the compulsory frivolity of Barbarian rugby. He was buried just as the truth of his terrible mistake dawned. "I like Barbarian rugby because you can actually go

out there and express yourself," Campepe said. "That's how we play rugby, that's Australian style, we don't have to change. When there are a lot of British players in the team, it [running the ball] is very hard because they're not used to doing it at a very high level. They love to try, but, after a little while, they go back into their shells."



At Twickenham

The unpalatable truth for Campepe is that the Australia team can no longer afford his style. Had he not retired, this would have been his last game, anyway. He was dropped halfway through the tour and, in his last two games, at Cardiff and Twickenham, he was no more than a peripheral figure. Even his try, roundly applauded by most, was a sneaky little affair, a five-metre dummy and dash rather than a loping goose-stepping, run to the line. In the error-free zone that is the new Australia, there is no room for wild spirits or impossible thoughts.

The wider fear is that Campepe's farewell, a modest affair for such an immodest man, will mark the symbolic decline of the Barbarians, too, as fixture lists become more congested and international teams more efficient. When injuries cost money, players might not be so willing to put themselves out merely for a philosophy, nor will crowds be so eager to watch no contests.

In the meantime, Campepe can be found on http://www.campepe.com.nf on the Internet. The site features a diary, a scrapbook of back-page headlines, news of his Australian tour and the main heading: "Campo to meet Queen at Buckingham Palace." It will surely be an honour for Her Majesty.

Jenkins puts the boot in

Pontypridd..... 53
Bridgend..... 9

By A CORRESPONDENT

WHILE all around talk of the glitzy glamour of European rugby, Pontypridd, the perennial bridesmaid of Welsh rugby, have an agenda far closer to home. The Welsh League, much maligned this season, announced a sponsor for the first time since its inauguration, is, and always has been, at the top of the Sardin Road list of priorities.

On Saturday the unflashy valley club enhanced its chances of lifting the domestic title for the first time as they swept aside Bridgend, the easy season passers, with a free-try, 50-point demolition. Nd Jenkins, the ousted Wales outside half, proved a point-to-point selector by helping himself to 28 points, courtesy of five conversions and six penalties. Jenkins has kept a relatively low profile since his Wales

interval, Bridgend capitulated. Further penalties from the kicking duo led the score at 19-9 as the hour mark approached, but Pontypridd, whose back row became increasingly dominant as the game wore on, stepped up a gear.

Pontypridd's challenge this season has been constructed on a 15-man game, a style that was rewarded when Prosser, the 6ft 5in second row, ran all of 70 yards to receive a scoring pass in the corner. Jenkins converted with aplomb and Pontypridd moved another step closer to that elusive title.

Jenkins converted with aplomb and Pontypridd moved another step closer to that elusive title. Not only did Welsh rugby's record points-scorer convert all 11 shots at goal, but he played a leading role in helping Pontypridd to five second-half tries. The victory takes their seven points clear of third-placed Bridgend and the Swans, the leaders. Jenkins and Matthew Lewis, the Wales A outside half, were the only scorers in a first half that was predictable and often frustrating for the 5,000 who braved the elements. After losing the Wales centre, Gareth Thomas, with a damaged palm and Jason Forster

SCORERS: Pontypridd: Tries: G Lewis, Lloyd, S Lewis, J Lewis, Prosser. Conversion: Jenkins (5). Penalty goals: Jenkins (6). Bridgend: Penalty goal: Lewis (5).

PONTYPRIDD: K. Morgan, D. Mearley, J. Lewis, S. Lewis, G. Lewis, N. Jenkins, Paul John, N. Egan, Phil John, A. Griffiths, M. Spiller, G. Prosser, M. Forster, M. Williams, M. Lloyd. Lloyd replaced by R. Collins (68min).

BRIDGEND: A. Dunster, P. James, G. Thomas, R. Bowyer, D. Jones, M. Lewis, W. Morris, L. Mearns, I. Greenhalgh, R. Shaw, C. Mitchell, E. Williams, C. Stephens, J. Forster, A. Williams. Thomas replaced by C. Bradshaw (47min); Forster replaced by A. Evans (41); E. Williams replaced by C. Vogel (44).

Eagles prove a cut above

Reading..... 50
Widnes..... 3

By MICHAEL AYLWIN

ARE foreign imports good for English sport? It is a tender, though hotly-contested issue, at the moment, but most discerning observers agree that a measured sprinkling of genuine quality from abroad represents the most balanced and productive recipe for any one club.

Convincing support for this theory was served up in Berkshire on Saturday, as Reading swept into the fifth round of the Pilkington Cup, inspired by the two US Eagles who joined them this season. Mark Scharrenburg is a bull of a centre and made an impressive debut for the third-division club, but the catalyst for victory was André Bachelet, the scrum half and captain of the United States national team. "We have come over here looking for regular competi-

The aim is to get the Eagles to the World Cup in 1999 and playing now in England will help us reach the necessary level."

They can test their progress in the fifth round when they entertain Saracens, a side who, of course, be criticised for taking international recruitment a little too far.

Reading cut loose in the second half to score 37 points without reply. Bachelet showed great pace to claim two tries, while the centre pairing of Scharrenburg and the electric Lee Fanning formed the focus through which much of the Reading effort was directed.

Meanwhile, Widnes have some international spice of their own in the shape of their 17-stone centre, Basil Ake, a former junior All Black and Bradford Bull. He was ferocious in both attack and defence during the first half, when Widnes were unfortunate not to come away with more than a solitary penalty, converted by Murray King.

to two tries in the second quarter, from Tom Ellis and Chris Martin.

Martin's came at the end of some gloriously sweeping Reading continuity, Scharrenburg punching through to the Widnes posts and No 8 Martin Hart working the ball to the winger. It was an ominous precursor to Reading's second-half performance.

Five sparkling tries followed for Reading. Bachelet scored his brace, while Paul Guttridge, Ian Armstrong and Hart claimed one apiece. Phil Belshaw's kicking took the Reading total up to 50.

SCORERS: Reading: Tries: Bachelet (2), Ellis, Martin, Guttridge, Armstrong, Hart. Conversion: Scharrenburg (2). Penalty goals: Belshaw (2). Widnes: Penalty goal: King.
READING: P. Belshaw, C. Martin, L. Fanning, M. Scharrenburg, T. Ellis, J. Dunn, A. Bachelet, P. Guttridge, S. Parlin, G. Arnold, P. Henry, M. Vatcher, R. Dow, I. Armstrong, M. Hart, N. Vatcher replaced by J. Jones (55min); Guttridge replaced by A. Fells (62); Ellis replaced by M. Kemp (68).
WIDNES: S. Barron, M. Whiffeld, B. Ake, A. Beckett, A. Gower, M. King, P. McCaughran, C. Welch, P. Woodcock, S. Atkinson, E. Laughran, K. Quinn, A. Gilman, P. Ashcroft, S. Beekley. Gilman replaced by G. Foxham (62min); Atkinson replaced by D. McFarlane (77); Ake replaced by S. Harrow (77).

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Football maintains regional bias

By JOHN GOODBODY

JUST as Lancashire clubs dominate professional football, so their local schools are producing a disproportionate number of successful teams and players. The boys seem inspired by the proximity of clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool, Everton and Blackburn Rovers who, between them, have won 14 of the last 20 Premiership and old first division titles.

Of the 22 boys who will attend the trials in January for the England Under-15 team, 13 come from the North West. In the Goodyear Under-16 trophy, this region has provided winners in four of the last eight years.

Malcolm Berry, the chief executive of the English Schools Football Association, says the North West is unusually strong at the moment. "Next year won't be quite the same, but this area does play a lot of competitive football, and the need to be competitive rubs off on the boys. It also helps that in places such as Manchester and Liverpool there isn't far to travel between the schools."

The North West has not been as dominant in the older age groups, however. In the

Schools results 39

Snickers Under-19 trophy, which this year has been split into two competitions — one for the larger schools and sixth-form colleges, the other for the smaller schools — the region has had only five winners in the last 17 years.

It seems that the schools' success at producing footballers begins to work against them as the boys get older. "Many schools in the North West lose their outstanding older players to professional clubs. In other parts of the country, more boys stay on to continue their education rather than sign up," Berry said.

This factor rarely occurs in the independent sector, where schools from the North West have dominated the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup for under-19s. The region has provided the winners of the tournament for independent schools in three of the four years since it began, and this season schools from the North West filled three of the four semi-final places.

Only Lancing, who last Wednesday beat Bury GS 1-0

SPORT



IN SCHOOLS

away, with a goal from Stephen Bird, have disturbed the region's monopoly. Lancing now meet the King's School, Chester for a place in the final. The King's School won 1-0 at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn, the winners last season, who were raising three key players, including Ian Simpson, the captain. Rhys Owen scored the only goal after his teammate, Damien Testi, had earlier hit the bar.

The other semi-final will be between Manchester GS, who beat Shrewsbury on penalties, and Bolton, 2-0 winners over Bradford thanks to goals from James Freeborn and Dan Barrett.

Simon Rees, the director of sport at Bolton, said: "We are after a football mentality — young players who think as professional footballers and read the game, and don't just 'beetle' around."

"The North West is an area with a wealth of good football and the boys soak up the atmosphere. The proximity of the schools also means that they are vying with each other, both academically and at sport."

Bolton have also benefited from having Paul Mariner, the former England international, as technical director of football for two years before he went to the United States. He has now been succeeded by Mike Duxbury, the former Manchester United player.

Mark Dickson, the organiser of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, said that the day-schools in the North West tend to be committed to football. "They play football both winter terms, whereas most of the schools in the other parts of the country only play football before Christmas, switching to other sports in the new year."

"Many of the North West schools have boys who play all winter from the age of 11 until they are 17 or 18. In a tournament like this, it does make a difference."



Intense rivalry and the proximity of professional clubs has helped the North West to dominate schools football

Kent contemplates athletic future

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

EVERY athlete went away with something, even if, for the majority, it was little more than a foil blanket and healthier lungs. The sight of so much foil at this time of year might be a turkey's nightmare, but on this cold, misty day, on a sportsfield in Leicester, it was an essential item for keeping warm after a hard run.

For the minority, there was a certificate of achievement, a reminder of the day that school made his muddy mark on the TSB English Schools Cross Country Cup finals. Just about worth the sacrifice

of passing up the chance to play football. David Kent, the winner of the junior boys' race, thought. He had to be asked twice, though, before answering.

Kent finished like a turkey being chased by a cook with a roll of tin foil, his sprint increasing his considerable margin over the pack. This was a local boy making good. Kent is from Leysland High, Countesthorpe, just five miles from the course at Wyelife Community College.

Football is Kent's preferred sport, and he missed playing for South Leicestershire Schools to be running here, his school having progressed through two qualifying

rounds. It was, he said, his decision to run without the ball. "I wanted to do this because I did not want to let the team down," he said.

At 12, Kent is not yet at the age where hard decisions on sporting alternatives have to be taken. He, like Laura Puddle, built and named for cross country and the winner of the junior girls' race, are still competing in more than one sport at which they are gifted. Yet before they know it, they will be 15, like Andrew Sherman, the winner of the intermediate boys' event, who has just begun to commit to running, giving up his other sport, ice hockey.

Common sense is required to be the parent of a child with all-round sporting gifts. "The big problem is making sure he is not over-stretched," Bob Kent, David's father, said. "We look at his reactions, his programme and make sure he gets a couple of rest days. Any niggles and we make sure he pulls out of whatever he is committed to."

Kent Sr is in no rush for his son to accept an invitation to join the Leicester City Football Club school of excellence. "With the demands of athletics at an early age and the

commitment to training, it is becoming more difficult," he said, adding that there were not enough nights in the week to train for football and running.

The congestion has been eased for Puddle now that she boards at Millfield, where facilities for practically every sport are on site. "She used to do gymnastics at Heathrow, play hockey at Sunbury and we could not fit it all in," Kim Puddle, her mother, said.

Sherman, from The Ridgeway, Wroughton, expected to win and it was no surprise that the girls' intermediate title went to Louise Whitaker, from Weaverham High. The unexpected was delivered in the "junior boys' team race, which was won by Killingworth, Newcastle.

The school had never appeared in the finals before. Alan Atkinson, its physical education teacher, came seeking merely a place in the top five, but he left with the cup, elated that, on this fiercely competitive day, the Wyelife battleground had been turned into the Killingworth fields.

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Sunderland's flotation will test demand

Forget your Chelsea Villages, Loftus Roads and Preston North Ends, this week Sunderland Football Club will set a price for their shares and issue a full prospectus on their way to a listing on the main market of the Stock Exchange before Christmas.

This is the first full flotation of a football club, as opposed to an issue on the much less onerous Alternative Investment Market, since Manchester United floated 34 years ago. Admittedly, Leeds United have become part of a public company through their purchase by Caspian Group, but that did not test investor demand in the way that Sunderland will. The Wear-side club's fundraising of up to £12 million will be a true indication of the bubbling market confidence and could tempt the big boys, such as Newcastle United, Aston Villa and Everton, into the market sooner rather than later.

The City has some serious questions to ask of Sunderland before it is willing to give them the market value of some-where upwards of £40 million that Bob Murray, the chairman, is seeking. What about relegation? A real prospect, despite Sunderland recording their first away win, against Everton, last weekend. What about their accounting policy, under which Sunderland buy a player and hold on to him for a year before writing off the cost of the transfer fee? Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea write the value down through the life of his contract and Newcastle United write the whole value off immediately (which means this year they will be in the red, regardless of what else happens, because of the Alan Shearer deal). What about Murray's claim that, as 3.1 million people live in Tyne and Wear, and there are three Premiership clubs, there must be more than a million Sunderland fans? Has he not heard of St James' Park?

The prospectus will carry all sorts of interesting detail, such as the sponsorship income of more than £2 million that Sunderland expect to get for naming their brand new ground and its four stands. It will contain the sort of intelligently put together projections of income and expenditure that are sadly lacking in any of Chelsea's financial documentation. Recent movements in the thinly-traded shares of Chelsea



THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

sea, Arsenal and Liverpool, which are listed on AIM, the unregulated Oxfex markets, have given these club astronomical market value running as high as £15 million. If, however, Sunderland achieve their modest target of £50 million this will be of greater interest to investors than the five miles further north where Sir John Hall is deciding whether to flood Newcastle. Cameron Hall, Sir John's property company, has pumped more than £40 million into the club and the wily old businessman is looking for a return. He also wants to build a 60,000 seater stadium across the Tyne in Gateshead and the needs outside funding. The big guess is that it will go soon rather than later, giving a market value of at least £100 million and freeing his cash to invest in the rugby and basketball team that will be held in separate, private company.

Everton are also close to floating, Peter Johnson, the chairman and major shareholder, said earlier this year that he did not want to float the club. Now, though, he is saying Goodison Park is too small and that he wants to build a new home for Everton. Expect news of the new year.

Aston Villa are also in the rumour mill for a float. Albert E Sharp, their stock brokers, have been selling shares heavily in a series of auctions since the company restructured itself earlier this year. Doug Ellis, Villa's chairman, said in August that the company's long-term objective was a float. His horizon looks like it is shortening.

Two other smaller clubs are also expected to float soon. Sheffield United's delisting of the leisurewear company, Connel, should be coming to the fore within weeks and Leicester City is also hinting at the sort of projections of income and expenditure that are sadly lacking in any of Chelsea's financial documentation. Recent movements in the thinly-traded shares of Chelsea

Jason NISS

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Grain Mustard 200g jar;
Strawberry Chutney 400g jar;
Mixed Olives with Sun Dried Tomatoes 1kg kilner jar;
Macadamia Nuts 200g jar;
Highland Oatcakes 400g tin;
Orange Marmalade with Whisky 340g jar;
Victoria Plum Preserve 340g jar;
Dorset Downland Honey 454g jar;
Baby Pears with Calvados 600g jar;
Stem Ginger Cake 680g tin;
Huntley and Palmer Chocolate
Olive Biscuits 300g box;
Six Gingerbread Men 250g box;
Glacé Fruits Selection 250g box;
Slimline Peppermint Creams 454g box.

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Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Lines will stay open until midnight tonight. Normal TNL rules apply. Calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

CHANGING TIMES

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes 30-over

TODAY
FOOTBALL
FA Carling Premiership: Nottingham Forest v Newcastle (8.0)
Auto Windscreens Shield: Northern section
First round
Chatterfield v Preston (7.45)

DR MARTENS CUP: Second round: Worcester City v FC Warrack.
ISIS LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis v Havant.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelms v Wotton (at Wotton) 7.00; Queens Park Rangers v Arsenal (at Haverhill) 7.00; Swindon v Bristol Rovers (2.00).
PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Stoke v Luton (11.0). Second division: Mansfield v Grimsby (7.0). Cup: Group two: Barnsley v Huddersfield (7.0).

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Sutton v Greston. Third qualifying round replay: Dulwich Hamlet v Dulwich.
FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Rushden and Diamonds v Southend; Millwall v Gillingham.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Full Film Trophy: Fourth round: Aldershot v Bournemouth; Southampton v Southampton; FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Tottenham v Luton (at Ebbw Vale); Luton v Tottenham (7.15).

OTHER SPORT
RACING: Foleston (11.0), Ludlow (12.40), Musselburgh (12.20).

TOMORROW
FOOTBALL
VALDHAHL CONFERENCE: Macclesfield (at Tescote) 7.45.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee Utd v Rangers. Second division: Hamilton v Stirling Albion; Stirling Albion v Stirling Albion. Third division: Cowdenbeath v Forth.

ALITO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: First round: Northern section: Bury v Darlington (7.45); Carlisle v Rochdale (7.45); Doncaster v Stockport; Hartlepool v Burnley; Hull v Chester; Retford v Buxton (7.45); Scarborough v Notts County. Southern section: * Bristol Rovers v Brentford; Cambridge Utd v Colchester (7.45); Gillingham v Cardiff (7.45); Luton v Leyton Orient (7.45); Plymouth v Bournemouth (7.45).

RUGBY UNION
UNIVERSITY MATCHES: Oxford v Cambridge (at Tescote) 7.00; Liverpool v Liverpool (at Liverpool) 7.00; Liverpool v Liverpool (at Liverpool) 7.00.
TOUR MATCHES: Argentina v Argentina XV (at Northampton); Romania v Romania XV (at Northampton); Scotland v Scotland XV (at Northampton); Wales v Wales XV (at Northampton).

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: National Cup: Semi-final: Ipswich v Ipswich; Ipswich v Ipswich.
RACING: Huddersfield (12.30), Plumpton (12.40), Sedgely (12.50).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL
VALDHAHL CONFERENCE: Morecambe v Clitheroe (7.45).
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v Kilmarnock; Dundee Utd v Dundee Utd; Aberdeen v Aberdeen; Motherwell v Motherwell. First division: East Fife v Greenock Morton.

RUGBY UNION
TOUR MATCHES: England A v South Africa A (at Gloucester).
ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 2A: London Irish v Newport.

OTHER SPORT
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester v Manchester (8.0).
RACING: Huddersfield (12.50), Leicester (11.0), English Park (11.0).

THURSDAY

BASKETBALL: 7UP Trophy: Leopards v Wolves (at Wolves).
ICE HOCKEY: Olympic qualifying matches: Iceland v Great Britain.
RACING: Foleston (12.50), Sandown Park (11.0), Taurton (11.0).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Qualifying group seven: Wales v Turkey (at Ebbw Vale).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: * Preston v Blackpool (7.45). Third division: Doncaster v Cardiff.

RUGBY UNION
UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Italy (at Inverleith, 2.00).
TOUR MATCHES: England A v Queensland (at Carrara International Stadium).
OLIVE MATCHES: Bedford v Leicester; West Hill v Luton (7.0); Clifton v Bristol; Northampton v Loughborough Students.

OTHER SPORT
BADMINTON: Friends Provident Grand Slam tournament (Köln).
BASKETBALL: 7UP Trophy: Chester v Sheffield (8.0).
RACING: Chatterfield (12.15), Doncaster (12.05), Luton (12.12).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
WORLD CUP: European qualifying group four: Cyprus v Bulgaria (2.0); Group six: Spain v Yugoslavia (at Valencia); 8.00; Group seven: Belgium v Holland (7.0); Wales v Turkey (at National Stadium, Cardiff) 8.00; Romania v Romania (at Luton) 8.00; Albania (at Windsor Park, Belfast); Portugal v Germany (at Lisbon, 8.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Burnley; Birmingham v West Bromwich; Bolton v Ipswich; Bradford v Bradford; Charlton v Port Vale; Norwich v Crystal Palace; Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd; Rotherham v Huddersfield; Queens Park Rangers v Southampton; Stoke v Swindon.

WEDNESDAY

WALSLEY CONFERENCE: Second division: Bournemouth v Millwall; Burnley v Brentford; Gillingham v Bury; Luton v Crawley; Notts County v Rotherham; Stockport v Stockport; Stockport v Peterborough; Stockport v Peterborough; Stockport v Peterborough.

RUGBY UNION
VALDHAHL CONFERENCE: Dover v Northfleet; Farnborough v Southey; Gillingham v B&B; Halifax v Morecambe; Harrogate v Hayes; Kidderminster v Kettering; Rushden & Diamonds v Bromsgrove; Southport v Altrincham; Stalybridge v Macclesfield; Stevenage v Luton; Welling v Woking.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberdeen v Motherwell; Hibernian v Dundee Utd; Kilmarnock v Hearts; Raith Rovers v Raith Rovers; Raith Rovers v Raith Rovers; Raith Rovers v Raith Rovers.

RUGBY UNION
Kick-off 3.30 unless stated
SAVE AND PROSPER INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v Argentina (at Twickenham, 3.0).
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland v Italy (at Murrayfield).

TOUR MATCHES: Emerging Wales v South Africa A (at Swindon).
PILKINGTON CUP: Fourth round: Lydney v Newbury (2.0).
ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 2B: Oriel v Newport.

ROYAL AND SUN ALLIANCE COLTS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: First: East Midlands v Kent (at Twickenham, 11.0).
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: South: Pool one: Surrey v Oxfordshire (at Imber Court, 2.15). Pool two: Devon v Middlesex (at Bedford); Somerset v Buckinghamshire (at Bradford); Somerset v Buckinghamshire (at Bradford); Somerset v Buckinghamshire (at Bradford).

OTHER SPORT
RACING: Chatterfield (12.50), Doncaster (12.15), Huddersfield (12.45), Ludlow (12.40), Musselburgh (12.20).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL
WORLD CUP: European qualifying group five: Israel v Luxembourg (4.0).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Sunderland v Chelsea (4.0).
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: * Bristol City v Bristol Rovers (1.0).

RUGBY UNION
INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Wales v Lithuania (at Cardiff Arms Park, 3.0).
OTHER SPORT
BADMINTON: Friends Provident Grand Slam tournament (Köln).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: * Seattle v Derby (5.30); London Town v Sheffield (7.15); 7UP Trophy: Barnsley v Hemel and Hatfield (7.0).

OTHER SPORT
RACING: Chatterfield (12.50), Doncaster (12.15), Huddersfield (12.45), Ludlow (12.40), Musselburgh (12.20).

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Victoria Walker takes the fitness-minded on a quick run through the aerobics-based classes now on offer

A high or low impact on your fitness

Aerobics in all its many forms is one of the most popular and most accessible means of exercising today. From "keep fit" classes in a local village hall to membership of an exclusive club, there is a tremendous variety of activities and costs on offer.

Exercise classes in Britain (as opposed to dance classes, for example) can be traced back to the 1920s and 1930s, when the League of Health and Beauty promoted gentle exercises involving a lot of bending and stretching.

Using such dance-based movements as a way of keeping fit and toned became fashionable again, particularly in America, during the late 1970s. It was popularised by people such as Jane Fonda who swore by it as a means of staying young, lean and beautiful.

The Sports Council in Britain, however, became concerned with what it saw as a rise in sport-related injuries due to inadequate coaching. It consulted experts and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), and created in 1987 the first nationally-recognised qualification



in exercise to music. Since then, this RSA standard has been successfully used and is only now being superseded by National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) for fitness instructors.

There is a vast array of studio-based exercise classes, often within one sports centre or club. Whether high or low impact, performed with weights or resistance bands, with or without a step or even a swimming pool, what they all have in common is a cardiovascular work-out, mainly to music, and a period of stretching.

Aerobics in its most basic form can be performed at either high or low impact. Walking is a low-impact exercise, running is high impact. One foot will always be on the floor in a low-impact move such as hamstring curls, but this may not be the case with a high-impact move, such as jumping jacks. As the name suggests, the impact or jarring action on the body will be more intense with a high-impact activity.

One of the most popular classes today is step aerobics. This involves stepping on and



Staying in trim at the Harbour Club. An exclusive venue such as this can cost £2,600 to join and £100 a month, but fitness classes at a village hall are on offer at £2.50 per hour

off a specially designed, slip-proof plastic box, which can be adjusted in height to make the exercise easier or more difficult. Step aerobics can be performed at high or low impact, though most advanced classes tend to have a mixture.

It was created by American fitness instructor Gin Miller, in conjunction with her physiotherapist, as a development of the classic bench step and Harvard step test, as she attempted to keep fit while recovering from a knee injury.

It is becoming increasingly fashionable to flavour exercise classes with the moves of different genres of dance and music. Jazz, Funk, Salsa and even Line Dancing have all

been adapted at different times to the needs of exercise classes. Other sports, such as boxing, have also been adopted by some classes to add variety to the moves. Boxercise comprises cardiovascular exercise with shadow and punch-bag boxing.

The useful qualities of water as an exercise medium has also been recognised. Water provides excellent support for the body, as well as creating a natural resistance for muscles to work against. For these reasons, aquarobics is an especially good way for the unfit to start an exercise programme.

Prices of exercise classes can vary enormously and generally reflect the quality of ameni-

ties on offer as well as the exercises. My 7am step class took place at The Harbour Club. The rudeness of the early hour was inevitably softened by the luxury of the surroundings.

The Harbour Club is known to the majority of people who do not have membership as the venue where Diana, Princess of Wales goes to keep fit. The facilities are designed to pamper as much as exercise, with deep pile snow-white towels, gallons of moisturising cream and shower gel at every turn in the changing rooms.

The club offers a huge range of activities and even boasts a real tennis court, as well as my favourite — a bar and restaur-

ant. The range of activities and quality of amenities are reflected in the membership fees: the peak rate costs £2,600 to join and £100 per month thereafter.

In direct contrast, Karen Walsh's keep fit class at the Jubilee Hall in Bishop's Wal-

tham, Hampshire is excellent value at £2.50 per hour. But, unlike a health club, she can only offer her own class and not a wide range of activities. The hall has no changing facilities or showers, and there is not a single luxury towel to be seen.

Other sports centres and clubs offer different types of membership packages. The Y in Manchester charges £320 for a year's membership or alternatively you can work out there with a day pass for £8.50. This price gives access to all of the exercise classes, including

step and aquarobics, as well as a full range of general sports. The Porchester Centre offers membership of a gymnasium with cardiovascular machines and free weights, swimming pools and a studio, from between £15 and £37 a month. Single classes cost £4.05.

TIPS

- **FIND** a qualified and insured teacher — such as members of The Exercise Council. Qualifications may include a RSA/Sports Council certificate or an NVQ.
- **MANY** clubs insist on fitness tests for new members and/or an injury questionnaire. Make sure you discuss your personal health and fitness with your teacher before starting a class.
- **WEAR** comfortable clothing that allows the body to move easily, such as leotards or shorts and T-shirts. Always wear trainers, preferably with heel/jankie support and cushioned soles. Sports shoe stockists should give individual advice.
- **THE** venue should be at a comfortable temperature and, ideally, have a semi-sprung floor. Mats should be available for floor work and any equipment used should be regularly checked.
- **FIRST** aid equipment and a trained first aider should be on site.

ADDRESSES

- The Exercise Association, Unit 4, Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1 (0171-278 0811).
- The Harbour Club, Water Meadow Lane, London SW6 (0171-371 7700).
- Porchester Centre, Queensway, London W2 (0171-792 2919).
- The Y Club, Liverpool Rd, Manchester M3 4JR (0161-834 6035).
- Karen Walsh, Jubilee Hall, Little Shaw Lane, Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire.

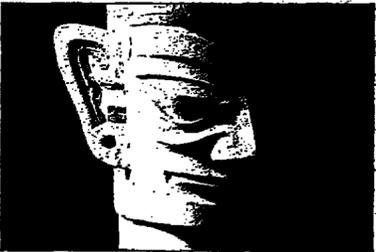
SCHOOLS SPORT

ATHLETICS

HOCKEY

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The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

The *Mysteries of Ancient China* is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. It includes spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

How to begin an exercise programme

The dizzying array of moves

Arriving a little too early for my first aquarobics class at the Porchester Centre, London, I went for a quick swim. Bad move. Aquarobics is not for sissies. The combined exertions of swimming and running around a pool were almost too much for my feeble, flabby body to cope with.

Nevertheless, it is an excellent way for the unfit to begin an exercise programme. I was heartened to learn that I was not the most unfit member of the class. The all-female group consisted of all shapes, sizes and ages.

Water provides support as well as resistance for the body. Carol Jackson, who gave birth to her second child only six weeks ago, feels that aquarobics is the best way for her to regain her figure.

"It's great working out in a pool because you don't feel so hot and sweaty and at the end of the class you just feel refreshed," she said.

Aquarobics takes place in the shallow end of a pool and there is no swimming involved. It has adopted many of the jumping, kicking and stretching moves found in a conventional exercise class.

Although I lacked a little puff and an awful lot of grace, I managed to complete the main cardiovascular part of the workout without mishap. As the class wound down, however, and the pace slackened for stretching and cooling-down exercises, my body started to do its own thing.

Supported by a float under each arm, we simulated sit-ups and did leg stretches. Everyone else in the group

My body, however, seemed to be propelled around the pool with every move I made. I bumped into the wall and my classmates with alarming regularity.

Finally that bit ended and the swimmers among us paddled off to the deep end to simulate running — supported by floats. I was horrified to discover that my earlier problem with dynamics had reversed. People "jogged" happily past me while I remained stationary despite furiously moving my legs. I slunk back to the changing rooms determined to do better next time.

Many people choose to take a spot of exercise before going to work. Unable to comprehend this, let alone contemplate it, early morning exercise has never crossed my mind. Why I agreed to take part in a step-aerobics session at 7am is beyond me.

However, it is rather hard to sleep if someone keeps yelling "energy" at you — and exercise I did. The fitness instructor guided us through various moves which were cunningly threaded together so that we were suddenly involved in complete routines that took us off on and around the step in a dizzying array of moves.

My wobbly legs were noticeably grateful as the pace slowed and we finally cooled down and stretched. But perhaps the greatest testimony to this session was that I felt full of energy all day. And as a tribute to the trainer, not a single muscle ached in the

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The declarer had a choice of endplays on this hand.

Dealer West	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ A J 8 4 2	♥ 7 6	♦ K 10 9
♣ 8 7 4	♠ 10 9 7 5 3	♥ A 2
♠ 9 8 7 4	♥ A Q	♦ A 8 5
♠ 9 8 7 4	♥ A Q	♦ A 8 5
♠ 9 8 7 4	♥ A Q	♦ A 8 5

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: four of hearts

South opened One Spade after three passes, North raised to Four Spades and South made a general try with Five Spades. North went on to Six Spades, though he should have passed Five Spades — his shape was unproductive, and he only had one control outside spades. The final contract was poor.

The declarer got off to a sound start when he put in dummy's queen of hearts on the opening lead. Good players make attacking leads against slams, and so West was more likely to lead from a king than a jack. As it happens, a trump lead was best for the defence on this occasion.

When the queen of hearts held, declarer drew trumps in one round and cashed the ace of hearts. He returned to hand with a trump and ruffed his last heart in dummy. Now he played off the ace and queen of diamonds. After taking the queen of diamonds East returned the queen of clubs. That is the correct card — if

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Las Palmas preview

The Las Palmas tournament, which aspires to be the strongest in history, gets under way this week. The competitors are Kasparov, Karpov, Anand, Kramnik, Ivanchuk and Topalov, the world's top six ranked players. They will conduct a double round competition against each other. The Las Palmas tournament is lent added allure by virtue of the fact that it sees the first clash between Kasparov and Karpov since the start of 1994. Here is their last game, one on which Karpov, though Black, pressed for a win and, indeed, missed the extraordinary tactical possibility 13...

Black: Garry Kasparov
White: Anatoly Karpov
Linares 1994

Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4	c6
2 d4	d5
3 Nc2	dxc4
4 Nf3	Nc7
5 Bc4	Ng6
6 Ng5	e6
7 Qe2	Nb6
8 Bb3	h6
9 Nf3	a5
10 c3	a5
11 a3	Qc7
12 Ne5	cx4
13 Qxd4	a4
14 Bc2	Bd7
15 Nxd7	Nxd7
16 Qd1	Bd6
17 Ne2	Nd5
18 Bc2	b5
19 Nc3	Nxc3
20 Bc3	Nf6
21 Qc3	Nd5
22 Bc2	Ke7
23 Rc1	Qc4
24 Ke2	Ph8
25 g3	Ocd3+

White to play. This position is from the game Sorokin — Jernellin, Elista 1996. 1 Qxd3 Rxd1+ and 1 Nxd8 Rxd2 are unattractive for White. How did he improve on these variations?

By Raymond Keene

By Philip Howard

- VITIATE
a. To spoil
b. Full of wiles
c. School for religious novices
- CARBUNCLE
a. A car morgue
b. An honorary uncle
c. A red stone
- NEFANDOUS
a. Unspeaking
b. Neck-and-crop
c. Inclined to weep
- FITCHEW
a. A lace collar
b. To dispraise

BADMINTON

WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS: Men's Singles... Women's Singles...

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Philadelphia 76ers... Boston Celtics...

CRICKET

SHEPHERD SHIELD (Third day of four): Hobart Tasmania 481-8 dec and 181-0...

CURLING

OPENING ROUNDS: European championship... Scotland 7-3 Sweden...

DARTS

LONDON: Wm Morris World Masters... Phil Taylor 10-5 Peter Dinklage...

EQUESTRIANISM

SEVILLE: World Cup qualifier... Group 4: 1. G. 2. B. 3. C. 4. D.

CYCLING

Key 100-kilometre Baroque (road race): Manchester 1-20...

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Group matches... Hertfordshire 114 Norfolk 125...

BOXING

INDO, California World Boxing Council... Sheffield 12-11 Sheffield 97...

ATHLETICS

LEICESTER: 15th English Schools Cross Country Cup... Peterborough 141...

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH SCHOOLS FA FLU FOOTBALL: South North 4... East Riding 1...

RUGBY UNION

Bedford 5 St Paul's 16; Bristol GS 43... Bedford 12; Plymouth 20 King's 5...

TRACK AND FIELD

CRYSTAL PALACE Indoor meeting: Men's Shot... Women's Shot...

CROSS COUNTRY

WIMBORNE Cross-country University meeting: D Lysons (C) 38m...

ROAD RACING

EAST LINDSEY: Hugh Wilson Memorial 10km... Peterborough 141...

TOUR MATCH

Berliners 12 Australians 38... Canberra 12 Australians 38...

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

First division: Bath 15-10... Gloucester 20...

WELSH LEAGUE

First division: Cardiff 20... Newport 12...

IRISH RUGBY

THIRD DIVISION: Bath 15-10... Newport 12...

TENNIS PREMIERSHIP

First division: Birmingham 31... Worcester 25...

WELSH LEAGUE

First division: Cardiff 20... Newport 12...

WELSH LEAGUE

First division: Cardiff 20... Newport 12...

WELSH LEAGUE

First division: Cardiff 20... Newport 12...

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First division: Cardiff 20... Newport 12...

WELSH LEAGUE

First division: Cardiff 20... Newport 12...

FOR THE RECORD

GOLF

TARPOON SPRINGS, Florida: Jay Pincus... 1. Pincus 137...

HARARE

Zimbabwe Open: Leading final scores... 1. M. G. 2. B. 3. C.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday... New York 10 Boston 10...

JUDO

BATH: British individual championships... 1. P. 2. S. 3. M.

KUUSAMO

Finland: Nordic World Cup... 1. P. 2. L. 3. C.

DAMOS

Switzerland: World Cup Nordic... 1. P. 2. L. 3. C.

LACROSSE

DAILY TELEGRAPH FLAHS: Second round... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

NETBALL

FRIST DIVISION: Essex Mar 78... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British amateur... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RIFLE SHOOTING

OXFORD: Southern region universities... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS: 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RACING

12.55: 1. Sprinter 15-11... 2. W. 3. M.

SANDOWN PARK

Going good (good to firm in places)... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

CHEPSTOW

12.45: 1. Tompato 15-2... 2. T. 3. M.

TOWCESTER

12.55: 1. Southern 15-11... 2. W. 3. M.

WOLVERHAMPTON

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

WETHERBY

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

WOLVERHAMPTON

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12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

WOLVERHAMPTON

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

WETHERBY

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

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WETHERBY

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

FOR THE RECORD

GOLF

TARPOON SPRINGS, Florida: Jay Pincus... 1. Pincus 137...

HARARE

Zimbabwe Open: Leading final scores... 1. M. G. 2. B. 3. C.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday... New York 10 Boston 10...

JUDO

BATH: British individual championships... 1. P. 2. S. 3. M.

KUUSAMO

Finland: Nordic World Cup... 1. P. 2. L. 3. C.

DAMOS

Switzerland: World Cup Nordic... 1. P. 2. L. 3. C.

LACROSSE

DAILY TELEGRAPH FLAHS: Second round... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

NETBALL

FRIST DIVISION: Essex Mar 78... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British amateur... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RIFLE SHOOTING

OXFORD: Southern region universities... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

VOLLEYBALL

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS: 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

RACING

12.55: 1. Sprinter 15-11... 2. W. 3. M.

SANDOWN PARK

Going good (good to firm in places)... 1. S. 2. M. 3. J.

CHEPSTOW

12.45: 1. Tompato 15-2... 2. T. 3. M.

TOWCESTER

12.55: 1. Southern 15-11... 2. W. 3. M.

WOLVERHAMPTON

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

WETHERBY

12.40: 1. Ban Crusier 15-11... 2. C. 3. M.

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WOLVERHAMPTON

12.

Requests for county court hearing date

Resisting application to stay proceedings

Perry v Wong
Sampson v Moon
Jones v Roc Shopfitting Ltd
 Before Lord Justice of Appeal, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Brian Neill
 [Judgment November 25]

In a county court action, to which the automatic directions regime applied, a request by the plaintiff for the fixing of a hearing date if made after the expiry of the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 11(3)(d) of the County Court Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)).

struck out on the ground of non-compliance with the rules.

Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Graham Wells for Mr Perry; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Philip Grundy for Mr Sampson; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Sam Grodzinski for Mr Jones; Mr David Stockdale, QC, for Mr Wong, Mr Moon and Roc Shopfitting.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the plaintiff's argument that a request made within the 15-month period was valid under the rule; that it would be offensive and unfair if an action were automatically struck out where a party had done precisely what the rule itself had provided; that, in particular, reliance on *Ashworth v Mcker Foods Ltd* [1996] 1 WLR 542 and *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* [1996] 1 WLR 536, the effect of decisions since *Rastin v British Steel plc* [1994] 1 WLR 732 was that a request within 15 months was effective and timely.

The defendants had submitted that paragraph (3)(d) was unambiguous and mandatory, imposing a duty on a plaintiff to make the request within six months; that nothing in the rules relaxed that requirement and that the proper approach was to construe paragraphs (3)(d) and (9) together so that on a failure to make the request within six months the plaintiff had to obtain the court's leave to proceed if he wished to apply for a hearing date before the expiry of the 15-month period; and that decisions on Order 17, rule 11 had emphasised that importance of compliance with the requirement to seek a hearing date within six months.

In his Lordship's view, the assumption which had animated both counsel and the court had indeed assumed, with justification, that a request made within 15 months sufficed, despite the fact that there had been no application for an extension.

The wording of the rule supported that approach. It was clear that the sanction applied to failure to make a request within the 15-month period. There was some language in the language of rule 11(3) in that it referred to a request made pursuant to rule 11(3)(d) within 15 months when a request made pursuant to rule 11(3)(d) had to be made within six months.

The reconciliation of that problem was that the reference in paragraph (9) was to a request of the nature specified in (3)(d) and not obviously to a request made within the six-month time limit. The rule clearly envisaged that a request might be made at any time up to the 15-month period.

That did not mean that rule 11(3)(d) was without effect: it enabled a defendant to make an appropriate application for the fixing of a timeable with the consequent risk of a costs penalty to the plaintiff, or his advisers.

It also enabled the court to summon the parties and impose a procedural timetable on them which the Court of Appeal would expect increasingly to do so.

The court of appeal so held:

1. Allowing an appeal by Robert Perry from Mr Recorder Garside, QC, who, sitting at St Helens County Court, had held that his personal injury action against the defendant, Kang Ho Wong, had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules 1981 (SI No 1687 (L 20)) as substituted by County Court (Amendment No 3) Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)).

2. Dismissing an appeal by Dave Moon from Judge Elystan-Morgan, who, sitting at Warrington County Court, had held that the personal injury action brought by the plaintiff, Gary Sampson, had not been automatically struck out under the rules.

3. Allowing an appeal by John Jones from Mr Recorder Garside, QC, who, sitting at Manchester County Court, had held that his personal injury action against Roc Shopfitting Ltd had been automatically struck out under the rules.

In each case the plaintiff, although not requesting a hearing date to be fixed within the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 11(3)(d), had made such a request within the 15-month period provided by rule 11(9). The defendant had applied to the court for a ruling that the action had been

ground, for example, that the plaintiff had ulterior motives capable of being regarded as an abuse of process: see *Ashworth* (at p549).

Metroinvest had been a strong case on the merits. It was however clear that procedural irregularities varied greatly in significance and his Lordship would question whether one rule was applicable to all such irregularities.

That was the conclusion reached by Sir Robert Megarry, J, Vice-Chancellor, in *Chapman v Chapman* [1985] 1 WLR 599 and his Lordship agreed with it.

In any event it was clear on the construction of Order 17, rule 11 which in effect established a code, that the rule laid down, if such it was, by Lord Justice Cummings-Bruce could not apply to non-compliance with Order 17, rule 11(3)(d).

Accordingly on the construction of the rules and consistently with previous authority a request made for a hearing date to be fixed, if made after the expiry of the six-month period and before expiry of the 15-month period was validly made even though there had been no preceding request for an extension of the six-month period.

In the first action the recorder had concluded that where no request had been made within the six-month period the plaintiff had to obtain an extension even if he made a request within the 15-month period; that the request implied or imported within it an application for an extension which he determined against the plaintiff on the tests laid down in the *Rastin* case.

It followed from his Lordship's judgment that the recorder had been wrong.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir Brian Neill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for J. Keith Park & Co, Merseyside; Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for Frank Howarth, Warrington; Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for Davies Wallis Foyster, Manchester.

Since the fixing of a hearing date was an act of a formal or administrative character which was not by statute the responsibility of the district judge, the "proper officer" was to be interpreted by virtue of Order 1, rule 3 to mean the chief clerk or any other officer of the court acting on his behalf.

So defined, the proper officer would not be a suitable person to whom to address an application calling for the exercise of discretion. The inference was that if the plaintiff requested the proper officer to fix a hearing date after the expiry of the six-month period, but before the expiry of the 15-month period, the proper officer would fix the date.

That was an automatic step not involving the exercise of discretion. It might be open to a defendant to apply to set that order aside on the

ground, for example, that the plaintiff had ulterior motives capable of being regarded as an abuse of process: see *Ashworth* (at p549).

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It followed from his Lordship's judgment that the recorder had been wrong.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir Brian Neill delivered a concurring judgment.

Duty of employer to ensure safety of employees

Health and Safety Executive v Spindle Select Ltd
 Before Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Tucker
 [Judgment November 25]

In the context of criminal proceedings, the duties of an employer to ensure the safety of his employees were comprehensive and all formed part of one activity.

The general duty was laid down by section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The matters referred to in section 2(2) were no more than examples of that general duty to which there was no need to refer specifically in the information and which, in any event, were not exhaustive.

As provided by section 33(A), as inserted by section 4 of the Off-shore Safety Act 1992.

Mr Dominic Grieve for the prosecutors; Mr Peter Cowan for the company.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the information was preferred after Mr Peever had his right hand severed after coming into contact with the rotating cutters of a wood turning machine. The justices dismissed that information on the company's application before any evidence was adduced.

The grounds of that application were that (i) the information failed to give reasonable information as to the nature of the charge and (ii) that if the prosecutor sought to give further particulars by alleging both a failure to guard the machine and a failure to train Mr Peever adequately, the information would then be duplicitous as alleging two separate offences.

The court was informed by Mr Grieve, counsel for the inspectors, that it was their practice, and also his experience, for such an information to charge an offence contrary to section 2(1) and not to prosecute under the less general provisions of section 2(2).

Mr Grieve disagreed with the suggestion that if full particulars had been contained in the information it would have led to duplicity. He would not have referred to any of the paragraphs contained in section 2(2) but to a particular fault. That would not have been duplicitous since he would have been referring to one activity, one risk, that gave rise to one accident and therefore to one information.

Mr Cowan submitted that the justices were right to conclude that the information was defective.

In his Lordship's opinion the charge should be founded on section 2(1), as the section creating the offence and, provided sufficient particulars were given, that was the proper course to take.

It was not necessary to refer in terms even if applicable, to any of the paragraphs of section 2(2), or to the subsection itself. Even if the information itself, or the particulars which accompanied it, referred to more than one aspect of the overall duty, that would not make the information bad for duplicity.

Accordingly the appeal would be allowed, the justices quashed and the case remitted to the justices with a direction to continue the hearing.

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European Law Report

Luxembourg

Home carer not employed person if wife

Züchner v Handelskassensklasse (Ersatzkasse) Bremen
 Case C-77/95
 Before: L. Sjövan, President of the Fifth Chamber and Judge G. Gullmann, D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Puissechot and P. Jann Advocate General D. Ruiz-Jarabo Colomer
 (Opinion July 11)
 [Judgment November 7]

A woman who provided home care for her husband after he became paraplegic in an accident, and was not engaged in an occupational activity or seeking employment when she began doing so, was not part of the "working population" for the purposes of the Community social security equal treatment Directive.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the *Haussches Oberlandesgericht* (Higher Regional Court, Bremen), for a preliminary ruling on a question on the interpretation of Council Directive 79/112/EEC of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L6 24).

The plaintiff's husband, Mr Züchner, who had previously been engaged in an occupational activity, became paraplegic following an accident and required assistance from another person in the form of therapeutic treatment and of general care and nursing.

The plaintiff provided that care in its entirety.

Mr Züchner's sickness insurance fund provided financial assistance for general care and nursing, but refused assistance so far as therapeutic assistance was concerned, relying on a provision of the German Social Welfare Code whereby entitlement to home nursing would arise only where there was no person living in the household who could assist and care for the patient to the extent necessary.

The plaintiff considered that provision to be discriminatory and contrary to Directive 79/112.

Tiber sitting at Edmonton County Court and in striking out the defendant's counterclaim in its entirety.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that Parliament had not intended that the statutory rights conferred by the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1977), as amended, should confer on claimants or any other person, such as a landlord, a private law right of action for breach of duty in relation to the payment of housing benefit.

The regulations provided a detailed self-contained and exhaustive procedure for enforcing the duties of the appropriate local authority in relation to the determination and payment of housing benefits. Until a determination was made under that procedure there was no duty on the appropriate authority to make a payment of housing benefit.

If there was any dissatisfaction with a determination which had been made the appropriate procedure for challenging that determination was that laid down in the regulations or, failing that, by judicial review and not by way of private law action for breach of statutory duty.

Companies form single unit

Vibo Europe BV v Commission of the European Communities (supported by Parker Pen Ltd, intervenor)
 Where a company and its subsidiaries formed a single economic unit within which the subsidiaries did not enjoy real autonomy in determining their course of action in the market, but carried out the instructions issued to them by the parent company controlling them, the fact that the parent company's policy of dividing national markets between its subsidiaries might produce effects capable of affecting the competitive position of third parties could not make article 85(1) of the EEC Treaty, which prohibited agreements between undertakings which had as their object or effect the prevention of competition within the common market, applicable.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on October 24 when dismissing an appeal by Vibo Europe against the judgment of the Court of First Instance in Case T-102/92 *Vibo Europe v Commission* (The Times January 31, 1995; [1995] ICR 1000; [1995] ECR II-17).

The court said that the Court of First Instance was fully entitled to base its decision solely on the existence of a single economic unit in order to rule out the application of article 85(1) to the Parker group.

However, the unilateral conduct in question could fall under article 86 of the Treaty if the conditions for its application, as laid down in that article, were fulfilled.

جديد من الاصل

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RETAILERS: GENERAL table with columns for company, price, change, yield, and P/E ratio.

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ELIZABETH GAGE Goldsmith advertisement featuring images of earrings and text: '18ct yellow gold 'Shiraz' earrings with mabé and drop pearls and scattered diamonds.'

Application proceedings... against beneficiaries... companies... single unit...

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PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- 1) To strengthen London borough councils' powers in relation to the prevention, investigation and enforcement of offences in relation to the claiming of benefits and other offences of fraud and to allow councils to share information and to request information from other bodies;
2) To make further provision in relation to the enforcement of parking controls;
3) To make further provision for increased powers of enforcement by London borough councils in relation to the control of waste on land and in particular powers of enforcement over private streets and alleyways and other open land;
4) To make provision for London borough councils to assist film makers in the making of films including the closure of streets and open spaces, to enable councils to charge for services provided to film makers under the Act and for the use of any of their property and to require notice to be given of filming on certain land;
5) To make provision amending various licensing enactments relating to music and entertainment, theatres, cinemas, night clubs, new beer premises, special treatment premises, sex establishments and dog supervisors, to provide that licensing conditions imposed by London boroughs should prevail over the conditions of the certificates and to allow London boroughs to charge fees for their costs of enforcing conditions of consent for distribution of free literature;
6) To make provision for the licensing of banking;
7) To make provision for the establishment of business improvement districts and the making of charges for improvements where a requisite majority of businesses vote in favour of a business improvement district being established;
8) To amend the London Regional Transport Act 1984 to enable the existing concessionary fares scheme to continue in circumstances where the reserve fund scheme would have come into operation and to remove any obligation on London borough councils to replace concession permits, to make provision for the control of resonance caused by blinds to enable London boroughs to replace the police authority in respect of the control of school crossings, to provide that London boroughs are not placed under an obligation to take over maintenance and control of closed churchyards unless certain conditions are complied with beforehand, to make provision relating to the control of school crossings, to alter the application of section 31 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act 1921 to provide that employees of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority be entitled to compensation for loss of office and to amend the London Local Authorities Act 1996 to allow enforcement of bus lane provisions to be carried out under the authority of a vehicle.
On and after the 4th December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of £2 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents and at the offices listed in the Schedule hereto.
Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a petition in the House of Lords is 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.
Further information regarding the deposit of such a petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, City Solicitor. SHARPE PRITCHARD, Queen Anne's Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, Parliamentary Agents.

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- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7BN
London Borough of Bexley, Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7JL
London Borough of Brent, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9EZ
London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3JH
London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1H 9LP
London Borough of Croydon, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR3 3ES
London Borough of Croydon, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR3 3ES
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London Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, Wellington Street, London, SE18 6PW
London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA
London Borough of Hammermith and Fulham, Room 137, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JL
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London Borough of Havering, Havering Town Hall, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BD
London Borough of Hillingdon, Planning Reception, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1LW
London Borough of Hounslow, Committee Services Manager, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4DN
London Borough of Islington, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Norton Street, London, W8 7NX
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU
London Borough of Lambeth, Town Hall, Britton Hill, London, SW2 1RW
London Borough of Lewisham, Latent House, 1 Catford Road, London, SE8 4RL
Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
London Borough of Merton, Reference Library, Merton Civic Centre, London, E14 2BG
London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, East Ham, London, E6 2BP
London Borough of Redbridge, Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG7 1DD
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3BZ
London Borough of Southwark, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UB
London Borough of Sutton, Corporate Legal Group, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1AA
London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG
London Borough of Waltham Forest, Information Desk, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF
London Borough of Wandsworth, The Concourse, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To provide for street trading controls within the City of Westminster (hereinafter referred to as "the City") replacing, within the city, the street trading provisions in the London Local Authorities Act 1990; to make provision as respects the designation of licence streets and the specification of articles which may be offered for sale in such streets; the granting and renewal of street trading licences including terms and conditions, the revocation or variation of such licences, the charging of fees and recovery of charges in connection with street trading, removal of equipment, employment of assistants, temporary licences, nomination of a relative etc. to whom a holder of a street trading licence wishes a licence to be granted in certain circumstances, the giving of notices, proof of resolutions passed and exercise of powers under the Bill, and as to offences relating to street trading and unlicensed street trading.

On and after the 4th December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the price of £1.00 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a petition in the House of Lords is 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996.

C.T. WILSON, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, City Solicitor. SHARPE PRITCHARD, Queen Anne's Chambers, 3 Dean Farnar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 9PL, Parliamentary Agents.

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

HAILSHAM CATTLE MARKET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament by the Hailsham Cattle Market Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") and Carter Commercial Developments Limited for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- (1) To relieve the Company of its duty to provide and maintain a market.
(2) To amend provisions of the Hailsham Cattle Market Act 1871 to enable the Company to dispose of the whole or any part of its land or property.
(3) To repeal provisions of the Hailsham Cattle Market Act 1871.

On or after the 4th of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at a price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Claremont at 1 North Street, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 1DA, at the offices of Carter Commercial Developments Limited at Pilgrim House, High Street, Billingsley, Essex, CM12 5NY and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the House of Commons is 30th January 1997; if it originates in the House of Lords, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the House of Lords is 30th January 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

DYSON BELL MARTIN, 1, Dean Farnar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 9PL, Parliamentary Agents.

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 006494 of 1996 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL HOLDINGS LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the High Court of Justice in England has appointed the undersigned as liquidator of the above-named company.

On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of £2 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents and at the offices listed in the Schedule hereto.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a petition in the House of Lords is 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.

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Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

C.T. WILSON, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, City Solicitor. SHARPE PRITCHARD, Queen Anne's Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, Parliamentary Agents.

SCHEDULE

- London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7BN
London Borough of Bexley, Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA6 7JL
London Borough of Brent, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9EZ
London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3JH
London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1H 9LP
London Borough of Croydon, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR3 3ES
London Borough of Croydon, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR3 3ES
London Borough of Ealing, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 61, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3JY
London Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, Wellington Street, London, SE18 6PW
London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA
London Borough of Hammermith and Fulham, Room 137, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JL
London Borough of Haringey, Civic Centre, High Road, London, N22 4LE
London Borough of Harrow, P O Box 2, Civic Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2JH
London Borough of Havering, Havering Town Hall, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BD
London Borough of Hillingdon, Planning Reception, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1LW
London Borough of Hounslow, Committee Services Manager, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4DN
London Borough of Islington, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Norton Street, London, W8 7NX
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU
London Borough of Lambeth, Town Hall, Britton Hill, London, SW2 1RW
London Borough of Lewisham, Latent House, 1 Catford Road, London, SE8 4RL
Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
London Borough of Merton, Reference Library, Merton Civic Centre, London, E14 2BG
London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, East Ham, London, E6 2BP
London Borough of Redbridge, Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG7 1DD
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3BZ
London Borough of Southwark, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London, SE5 8UB
London Borough of Sutton, Corporate Legal Group, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1AA
London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG
London Borough of Waltham Forest, Information Desk, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF
London Borough of Wandsworth, The Concourse, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

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Dated this 2nd day of December 1996.

C.T. WILSON, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, City Solicitor. SHARPE PRITCHARD, Queen Anne's Chambers, 3 Dean Farnar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 9PL, Parliamentary Agents.

LEGAL NOTICES

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London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3JH
London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Euston Road, London WC1H 9LP
London Borough of Croydon, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, Surrey, CR3 3ES
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London Borough of Ealing, Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD
London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 61, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3JY
London Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, Wellington Street, London, SE18 6PW
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London Borough of Hounslow, Committee Services Manager, Civic Centre, Lampton Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 4DN
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The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Norton Street, London, W8 7NX
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU
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London Borough of Lewisham, Latent House, 1 Catford Road, London, SE8 4RL
Corporation of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
London Borough of Merton, Reference Library, Merton Civic Centre, London, E14 2BG
London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, East Ham, London, E6 2BP
London Borough of Redbridge, Town Hall, High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG7 1DD
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London Borough of Waltham Forest, Information Desk, Town Hall, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF
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IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

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Dated this 2nd day of December 1996.

C.T. WILSON, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, City Solicitor. SHARPE PRITCHARD, Queen Anne's Chambers, 3 Dean Farnar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 9PL, Parliamentary Agents.

Bae back in hunt for £100bn fighter contract.

By OLIVER AUGUST

BRITISH AEROSPACE is planning a daring comeback to regain the dogfight over the contract to build a £100 billion fighter jet for the next century.

The Joint Strike Fighter, jointly commissioned by the UK and US Governments, will have the invisibility to radar of the Stealth bomber and the vertical lift-off capability of the Harrier jump jet, making it 30 to 40 per cent better than existing jets.

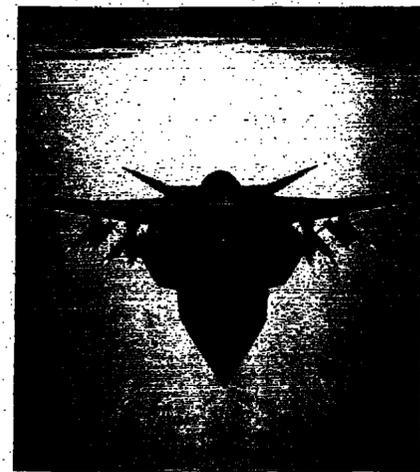
Bae designed its version of the JSF in a joint venture with McDonnell Douglas, the American aircraft maker. But American defence chiefs last month rejected the bid because of difficulties with the twin-engine.

The rejection came as a shock and surprise to Bae which was hoping to create thousands of UK jobs on the back of what is the biggest contract in aviation history.

The Americans, who are in the driving seat, awarded \$1.1 billion in development grants to two other American consortia. Boeing received \$662 million to build two JSF prototypes, the rest of the money went to Lockheed Martin.

Bae is now locked in discussions with both consortia to determine where it could usefully contribute its expertise, particularly on the vertical lift-off capability which was pioneered by Bae 30 years ago.

Defence insiders believe it is extremely likely that Bae will join one of the two



Down, but not out: Bae is locked in talks over the JSF

engines for the JSF whoever wins.

A Bae spokesman said the company had not given up hope on the JSF. He said: "We are still examining the situation." A Boeing spokesman said there was a "strong assumption" that Bae will join one of the two consortia.

Bae will have to make an informed choice over which of the two has a greater chance of winning. Lockheed Martin is currently seen as the front-runner because of its experience in building America's top fighter jets.

Boeing is almost entirely focused on the civilian aviation market and defence analysts have suggested that Boeing might use its development grant to conduct aerodynamics studies which are easily transferable to its core activity. The design of Boeing's vertical lift-off system is closer to Bae's own Harrier jump jet than Lockheed's.

A further complication in the restructuring of the bids is that McDonnell Douglas, Bae's former partner, wants to merge operations with Boeing. If this is given the green light by US regulators then co-operation on the JSF between the two may be likely. This could push Bae closer towards Lockheed.

The Royal Navy will spend at least £130 million to buy the jet, and Rolls-Royce is already destined to supply

consortia because the Ministry of Defence is putting pressure on the Americans to give a substantial share of the work to British companies.

Defence insiders believe it is extremely likely that Bae will join one of the two

Culture shock hits expatriate workers

By JON ASHWORTH

ABOUT a third of expatriate workers experience "significant" difficulties adapting to life abroad, a survey has found. And much of the fault lies with UK employers who do little to prepare candidates for their new assignments.

Irregularity, mood swings and depression are among traits highlighted in the survey conducted by NB Selection, the executive recruitment consultant. Fewer than 20 per cent of managers interviewed had received cross-cultural training, while 50 per cent said their employees failed to support them properly.

Elisabeth Marx, who conducted the research, says a change of approach could help companies to manage their international executives

more effectively. Dr Marx said: "Managers and organisations have to think about the wider implications of an assignment abroad."

Expatriate workers often experience difficulties when they return from a foreign posting. David John, chairman of BOC Group, said it was important to consider what would happen to an employee on his or her return. Many found themselves in a more junior post.

Mr John, who spent 15 years abroad with Incheape until he stepped down last December, said: "You've got to turn yourself into a good listener and have to live with ambiguity in the job. You should also think through the re-entry problem."

Iraq prepares to resume oil exports

By A CORRESPONDENT

OIL exports from Iraq under the United Nations-sponsored oil-for-food deal resume early tomorrow for the first time in more than six years, the Iraqi authorities have announced.

Amir Muhammad Rasheed, Iraq's Oil Minister, said that he expected the United Nations to present its final report today. In an interview on Iraqi state television, Mr Rasheed said that Iraq would start exporting as soon as it received approval to fill storage tanks at the Turkish terminal of Ceyhan, and Iraqi exports would not exceed 650,000 barrels per day at current prices.

Iraq last month accepted UN conditions for oil exports worth \$2 billion every six months to enable it to buy food

and medicine for its sanctions-hit civilian population. The deal is renewable.

The limited exports, which will be tightly supervised by the United Nations, will be Iraq's first since a ban on oil exports was imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Mr Rasheed said that foreign firms were lining up to buy Iraqi oil. "Contracts are ready and complete, and the United Nations has agreed to them. We are not going to discuss the contracts. They are ready," he said.

An Iraqi oil official said that representatives from Elf Aquitaine of France and Japan's Mitsubishi were among the first to finalise deals to buy Iraqi crude.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the High Court of Justice in England has appointed the undersigned as trustee of the above-named company.

On and after the 4th day of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of £2 per copy at the offices of the Westminster City Council, One Stop Services, Westminster City Hall, Victoria Street, Westminster, London SW1E 6QP, at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents and at the offices listed in the Schedule hereto.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a petition in the House of Lords is 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.

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Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

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COMPANY NOTICES

CANADIAN PACIFIC LIMITED (Incorporated in Canada) COMMON SHARES

Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the listing of the Common Shares of the company. The company is a public company and is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York

Airtours heading into more profitable waters

AIRTOURS: The second-largest tour operator is expected to unveil a £21 million increase in pre-tax profits when it reports on Wednesday. The industry is still in shock after Airtours and Thomson, the UK's leading tour operators, were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the Office of Fair Trading last month for alleged anti-competitive behaviour. However, Merrill Lynch is forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of £80 million for Airtours, compared with £59 million last year. Wayne Sanderson, its leisure analyst, said the prospects for Airtours are good because consumer spending is forecast to rise by 1.4 per cent, to 4 per cent.

The Airtours share price has not suffered as badly as that of its rival First Choice. The City is comforted by the 29.6 per cent stake held by Carnival Cruise Corporation, the US company, which is widely expected to bid for Airtours in the medium term. David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, has a seat on Carnival's board. He held the helm steady through 1995, the worst trading year for the travel industry for a decade. His experiment with cruising was an instant success, and Sunwing and Caroussel were operating at capacity for most of the season.

LONDON ELECTRICITY: A decline in profitability is not normally associated with the regional electricity companies but shareholders should brace themselves when the company unveils half-year figures on Thursday. Brokers like NatWest Securities anticipate a drop in the pre-tax number, from £84.5 million to £70.8 million, with earnings per share also down from 32.8p to 31.5p.

The setback is largely because of the implementation of the second distribution review. There is also expected to be a slowdown in achieving benefits from cost-cutting.

The company has already made it clear that any cash surpluses will be used for strengthening the business, so there are unlikely to be any special cash handbacks. Even so, a 14 per cent increase is expected in the half-year payout, with brokers looking for around 13p a share.

SCOTTISH HYDRO: Thursday's interim figures cover what is traditionally the quietest period of the year and are unlikely to set pulses racing. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up about £5.5 million, at £67 million, with earnings 11 per cent higher at 13.1p. But the real focus of attention will be on

COMPANIES

future plans. The group has already made it clear to the City that surplus funds of between £400 million and £500 million will be used to expand its generating and supply operations. Only if it fails to find useful investments will the money be returned to shareholders in the form of a special dividend, or share buyback. Any increase in the interim dividend should reflect the increase in profits, with most brokers looking for a rise of about 9 per cent, to 5.2p.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY: The focus of attention, when the group reports tomorrow, will be on shareholder value rather than its underlying performance. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £110.6 million to £86.1 million. Earnings a share will be down 6 per cent, at 42.4p. A share buyback may be the most likely outcome. It would enhance earnings and put the dividend cover back to a sensible level. Meanwhile, shareholders can expect a healthy 34 per cent dividend increase, to 13.3p.

MFI: The upturn in the housing market and pick-up in

consumer spending should be reflected in half-year figures today, with brokers looking for a surge at the pre-tax level, from £21.6 million to £41.2 million. In September the group confirmed strong growth with sales during the first 21 weeks of the year up by 17 per cent. The strong pound will have benefited the group when translating against the mark, and raw material costs are also expected to have moved in the company's favour after two years of adverse performance. Earnings a share are likely to have almost doubled, at 4.6p, while shareholders should be rewarded with a 17 per cent increase in the interim payout, to 1.75p.

COMPASS: A strong surge in pre-tax profits is envisaged when full-year figures are reported tomorrow, but growth in earnings is likely to be much slower. NatWest Securities is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits, from £73.2 million to £115.8 million, up by almost 60 per cent. But earnings are likely to grow by a more pedestrian 18 per cent, to 26.6p. The strength of sterling will be good for the group, which generates 75 per cent of profits overseas. But the business is no longer cash generative at the net level, leaving it increasingly

vulnerable to rising interest rates. Shareholders should be rewarded with a 15 per cent increase in the payout, to 8.75p.

CHUBB: The maker of safes, locks and electronic security systems has disappointed the market with weak sales growth and eroding margins. However recent acquisitions, including MSS and the fire and security operations of James Hardie, are beginning to make their mark, while restructuring costs are coming down. NatWest Securities is calling for pre-tax profits of £45.6 million when Chubb reports its interim results tomorrow, up from £43.2 million last year.

NFC: The recovery at the logistics group continues to accelerate, and should be reflected in full-year figures on Wednesday when pre-tax profits are expected to come but at £105 million, compared with £76.2 million last time. Earnings should also show a marked improvement of around 35 per cent, at 9.3p. Competition remains intense but profits growth will have been underpinned by increased efficiency, productivity gains and cost-cutting. The dividend is likely to be held at 7.1p.



MICHAEL CLARK

David Crossland, Airtours chairman, kept the helm steady in a difficult year

Clarke's diary holds key to the week

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A peek at Kenneth Clarke's diary furnishes many of the key events that will attract the financial markets' attention this week. Today the Chancellor is questioned by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on the Budget. After the Governor of the Bank of England last week gave an apparently relaxed view of the need to raise base rates, the markets will be eager to see what light on this question will be shed by Mr Clarke. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, testifies tomorrow.

On Wednesday the focus in the morning will be the monetary meeting to see whether base rates are raised. Later Mr Clarke opens a two-day debate in Parliament on Europe. On Thursday the Chancellor goes to Dublin for a crucial meeting of European finance ministers, followed on Friday and Saturday by the European Council meeting, dubbed the Dublin Summit. On Thursday the regular

meeting of the Bank of France's council may gain attention given recent talk about the franc-mark exchange rate.

Among key British statistical releases this week are November producer prices today which are expected to show further easing in the rates of input and output price inflation. Output price inflation is expected to slide to 2.1 per cent from 2.3 per cent in October while input prices are predicted, according to the market consensus from MMS International, to be 2.1 per cent down year on year compared with 2 per cent previously.

On Thursday November retail prices figures are expected to show key measures of inflation unchanged from October. Headline inflation is predicted to stay at 2.7 per cent, underlying inflation at 3.3 per cent and RPIY — excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes — at 3 per cent. December's CBI industrial trends survey is also published.



Clarke: European debate



George: relaxed view

TODAY

Interims: Carclo Engineering, Drummond Group, Kell Hardware, Jarvis (GB), Leopold Joseph, Mulberry Group, TH Far East Income. Final: API Group, Dwyer Estates, Electronic Data Processing, Fifth Fibron, Reed Executive, Slimma, Unidare. Economic statistics: UK November producer prices.

TOMORROW

Interims: Aliba, Anglian Group, Betsley Group, British Land, BSS Group, Capital For Companies VCT, Chubb Security, Drummond Group, Haina, Hill Hire, Purocat International, John Tams Group, Theo Fernald, Total Systems, Triad Group, Vtech Holdings. Final: Alders, Celltech Group, Compass Group, Holmes & Marchant, Hazelock Group, Leeds Group, Sage Group, Watral Holdings, Whetstone. Economic statistics: UK October new construction orders, UK BRC November retail sales survey, US Q3 current account balance, National Association of Purchasing Managers semi-annual economic forecast.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: WS Adkins, Bristol Water Holdings, David S Smith, First Technology, Greene King. Final: Airtours, Apollo Metals, Avon Rub-

THURSDAY

Interims: DC Cook Holdings, Fine Art Developments, Harvey Nicholas Group, London Electricity, MS International, Phoenixlink, Reliance Security, Scottish Hydro-Electric, Wainhomes. Final: Baggeridge Brick, Care UK, Countryside Properties, Daily Mail & General Trust, Dunedin Smaller Companies, Greenalls Group, M&G Group. Economic statistics: UK November retail price index, UK December CBI industrial trends survey, US weekly jobless claims, US November consumer prices index, US November retail sales.

FRIDAY

Interims: Moorgate Smaller, TR Technology. Final: Bankers Investment Trust, Granger Trust, Moorgate Smaller Companies Income Trust. Economic statistics: European Council meeting in Dublin, French September current account balance.

SUNDAY

Independent on Sunday: Buy Hay & Robertson, Williams, Wainhomes, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Marston. The Sunday Times: Buy BAC, Williams, Tarmac, Hill Hire. The Sunday Tele-

graph: Buy Peptide, Williams, Emap, Doeflex, Compass. The Observer: Buy GUS, Courts. The Mail on Sunday: Buy H Young, Doeflex and S Daniels. The Express on Sunday: Buy Tate & Lyle, BT, BP.



ON A SCALE of nought to ten,

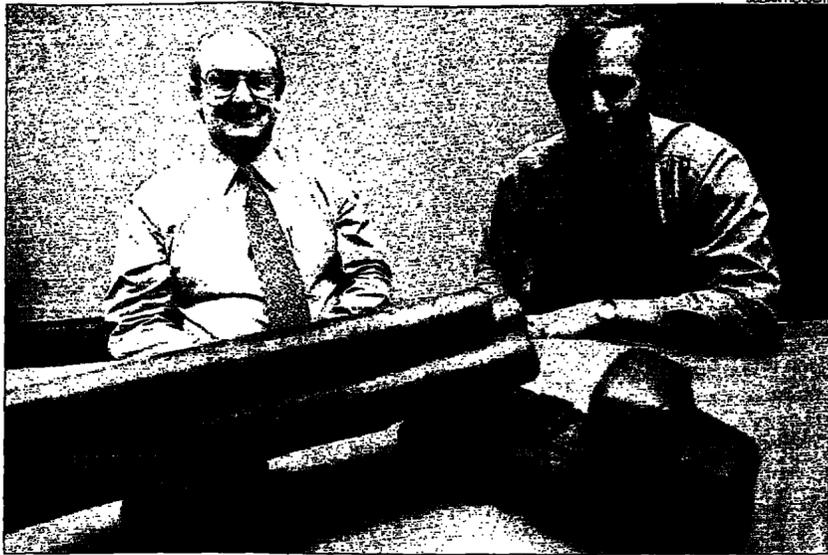
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Moving markets: Patrick Queen, operations manager, left, and Charles Parsons, finance director of Britannic, the timber company, which is to join the AIM from the FTSE market on Wednesday, with a price-tag of £11.8 million.

Labour training scheme to be spelt out in detail

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DETAILS of Labour's planned University for Industry (UII) will be set out tomorrow. The party wants a business-based approach to lifetime learning and universal opportunities for continuing training.

The scheme has been worked out in close consultation with Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who first proposed it. The party wants to show that a UII would be more than a vague concept with little practical application.

Labour leaders see the UII as a parallel move to the establishment in the 1960s of the Open University — an initiative that captured the public imagination and commanded considerable support.

While the party has not yet put detailed flesh on the bones of the UII idea, the Institute for Public Policy Research — a think-tank close to Tony Blair, the Labour leader — will tomorrow set out lifetime learning proposals that will use the UII to improve the skill base of the British economy. Mr Brown will address an

IPPR conference on the UII. Beforehand, the institute's own report on the idea will suggest that a UII should not be a new institution that competes with other training and education providers. It wants a "national catalyst" to bring together a range of information currently dispersed across different companies and educational bodies, with the aim of reaching mass audiences at a low cost.

The institute's report has been drawn up in consultation

with leading educationalists and business training figures. It will suggest that the UII should act as the hub of a national learning network — a broker of training products and services branded under its own name. People should be able to use the UII by Internet, post or audiovisual means, accessing it from workplaces, home or convenient local centres, such as libraries, shopping centres and schools.

The institute's report will say the UII would incur some

start-up costs. It will suggest that these could be met by reallocating some existing public training expenditure, or from the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

The IPPR will quote CBI estimates that annual training spending amounts to £41 billion by employers and individuals. It will also suggest that the cost of courses could be met by employers and individuals, or through measures such as Labour's proposed individual learning accounts.

AIM keeps its nerve

By FRASER NELSON

THE Alternative Investment Market kept its head on Friday, while all around it were losing theirs. As the FTSE 100 suffered its biggest loss since Britain's ERM exit, the FT-SE AIM index held firm at 1,034.50.

Its performance further weakened the old taunt that when Wall Street sneezes and London catches cold, AIM

will completely collapse. Its prospects were lifted last week as post-budget sums showed the shares of 30 AIM stocks qualify for tax relief. Ask Central, Pan Andean Resources and Stroutons are among those expected to be given clearance by the Inland Revenue under the new rules. However, some of AIM's penny shares suffered, with

Clubpartners falling from 13½p to 11½p after Peel Hunt quit as its nominated adviser and broker. Just Group closed 1p easier, at 2p, while First Information dropped 4p, to 8½p. Crown Products dropped 12p, to 21½p, after a profits warning. But Trocadero, Celtic and IOC International, the market's biggest stocks, all enjoyed gains.

1996				Mid cap (million)	Price	Why	Ytd %	P/E	1995						
High	Low	Change	Vol						High	Low	Change	Vol	High	Low	Change
150	132	-18.00	120	13.90	139	-2	4.1	11.3	5	2	1.07	120	100	20	200
150	110	-40.00	100	21.80	151	-2	2.1	11.3	5	2	0.25	120	100	20	200
118	87	-31.00	100	22.50	109	-2	4.3	13.3	180	127	5.81	120	100	20	200
87	16	-71.00	14	4.65	84	-	-	24.1	180	127	47.70	120	100	20	200
15	14	-1.00	100	14.00	14	-	-	13.3	180	127	27.80	120	100	20	200
107	107	0.00	100	14.00	107	-	-	13.3	323	210	19.80	120	100	20	200
181	76	-105.00	100	14.00	107	-	-	13.3	3750	2500	50.00	120	100	20	200
210	123	-87.00	100	11.10	107	-	-	13.3	300	255	50.00	120	100	20	200
25	25	0.00	100	11.10	107	-	-	13.3	17	12	0.80	120	100	20	200
105	66	-39.00	100	10.70	107	-	-	13.3	9	2	0.24	120	100	20	200
28	13	-15.00	100	10.70	107	-	-	13.3	9	2	0.24	120	100	20	200
58	30	-28.00	100	10.70	107	-	-	13.3	79	65	24.10	120	100	20	200
105	4	-101.00	100	10.70	107	-	-	13.3	185	114	3.58	120	100	20	200
456	300	-156.00	100	45.00	470	-8	6.2	10.6	85	85	0.86	120	100	20	200
1025	865	-160.00	100	6.07	1025	-	-	8.1	70	65	1.76	120	100	20	200
121	8	-113.00	100	54.40	121	-	-	8.1	367	182	38.20	120	100	20	200
121	8	-113.00	100	54.40	121	-	-	8.1	367	182	38.20	120	100	20	200
81	25	-56.00	100	25.00	81	-	-	8.1	160	110	0.17	120	100	20	200
142	68	-74.00	100	21.80	142	-	-	8.1	160	110	0.17	120	100	20	200
85	56	-29.00	100	1.16	85	-	-	8.1	220	187	1.82	120	100	20	200
149	123	-26.00	100	41.10	149	-	-	8.1	11	11	7.87	120	100	20	200
68	57	-11.00	100	11.30	68	-	-	8.1	13	11	2.51	120	100	20	200
8	7	-1.00	100	11.30	8	-	-	8.1	13	11	2.51	120	100	20	200
4	4	0.00	100	7.50	4	-	-	8.1	13	11	2.51	120	100	20	200
4	4	0.00	100	7.50	4	-	-	8.1	13	11	2.51	120	100	20	200
150	140	-10.00	100	1.01	150	-	-	8.1	104	78	1.90	120	100	20	200
70	70	0.00	100	0.24	70	-	-	8.1	115	77	4.71	120	100	20	200
70	41	-29.00	100	7.89	70	-	-	8.1	115	77	4.71	120	100	20	200
107	67	-40.00	100	3.73	107	-	-	8.1	55	19	12.40	120	100	20	200
228	246	18.00	100	60.00	228	-	-	8.1	43	15	0.86	120	100	20	200
142	116	-26.00	100	15.10	142	-	-	8.1	43	15	0.86	120	100	20	200
110	109	-1.00	100	0.12	110	-	-	8.1	82	82	5.09	120	100	20	200
149	118	-31.00	100	1.12	149	-	-	8.1	77	260	21.50	120	100	20	200
213	86	-127.00	100	1.81	213	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.82	120	100	20	200
76	55	-21.00	100	8.21	76	-	-	8.1	82	39	36.40	120	100	20	200
98	59	-39.00	100	13.70	98	-	-	8.1	82	39	36.40	120	100	20	200
76	59	-17.00	100	1.82	76	-	-	8.1	82	39	36.40	120	100	20	200
108	85	-23.00	100	8.67	108	-	-	8.1	82	39	36.40	120	100	20	200
70	48	-22.00	100	3.25	70	-	-	8.1	82	39	36.40	120	100	20	200
107	41	-66.00	100	6.33	107	-	-	8.1	82	39	36.40	120	100	20	200
325	650	-325.00	100	78.00	325	-	-	8.1	116	116	52.70	120	100	20	200
124	107	-17.00	100	14.60	124	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
86	5	-81.00	100	0.25	86	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
125	83	-42.00	100	155.00	125	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
219	120	-99.00	100	9.36	219	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
189	173	-16.00	100	21.30	189	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
170	131	-39.00	100	36.30	170	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
110	110	0.00	100	0.89	110	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
510	465	-45.00	100	11.60	510	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
100	85	-15.00	100	0.80	100	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
125	115	-10.00	100	0.84	125	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
228	215	-13.00	100	0.17	228	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
44	37	-7.00	100	8.14	44	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
171	88	-83.00	100	27.30	171	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
129	8	-121.00	100	4.12	129	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
108	42	-66.00	100	15.30	108	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
345	190	-155.00	100	4.48	345	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
189	173	-16.00	100	21.30	189	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
502	152	-350.00	100	39.10	502	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
36	20	-16.00	100	0.88	36	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
30	30	0.00	100	4.85	30	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
122	122	0.00	100	106.40	122	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
1950	890	-1060.00	100	5.20	1950	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
7	11	-4.00	100	10.20	7	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
104	5	-99.00	100	3.88	104	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
410	305	-105.00	100	41.80	410	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
111	70	-41.00	100	11.80	111	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
107	80	-27.00	100	13.80	107	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
137	2	-135.00	100	2.47	137	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
127	59	-68.00	100	7.47	127	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
246	148	-98.00	100	36.00	246	-	-	8.1	107	107	1.07	120	100	20	200
200	35	-165.00	100	24.70	200	-									

Liverpool millennium project under fire from Walton Group

By Jason Nasse

A PROPERTY developer is urging The Millennium Commission to reject an £80 million media and telecommunications project in the centre of Liverpool, claiming it will block another scheme that would create 6,000 jobs in the area.

Walton Group is proposing a rival £150 million development, building an 800,000 sq ft shopping and media

centre on the site in Chavasse Park, next to the Albert Dock in central Liverpool. Walton's solicitors, Bermans, wrote to Jennifer Page, chief executive of the commission, saying that a decision to grant the request for £24.6 million of Lottery funding for the Discovery Centre would kill off the Walton project.

The commission will decide on Wednesday whether to back the Dis-

covery Centre, which is also set to receive about £15 million from Liverpool City Council and the Merseyside Development Corporation as well as £40 million of private-sector finance.

The project has been put together by the Anglican Dean of Liverpool and will include a media factory, a technology museum, a public park and some shops. Liverpool City Council, which owns the site, would be willing to sell it

to the Discovery project for just £3 million, a fifth of the price Walton had said it would pay.

Walton says that Liverpool City Council had previously agreed to its offer of £15 million plus £1 million expenses for the site on which Walton is proposing to build an upmarket shopping centre along with media, education and leisure facilities.

In the letter to the commission, sent

at the end of last month, Bermans says: "It is expected that the scheme will create more than 6,000 new jobs in the area, which has been confirmed by independent experts."

The move by Walton has angered Liverpool City Council. "The council has taken a clear policy decision," said Alasdair Macdonald, deputy director of development at the council. "Walton is destructively getting at the Millenni-

um project." Mr Macdonald said it was not certain that Walton's development would be given the go-ahead even if the commission rejected funding for the Discovery Centre.

The Millennium Commission said that a decision is due to be made at a board meeting on Wednesday. "We take account of all local views before deciding on whether to back a project," said a spokeswoman.

Budget has failed to convince managers

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S managers expect interest rates to rise again before the general election and are sceptical about the value of the Budget to the UK economy, new evidence shows today.

The findings of the latest opinion survey of Britain's managers are almost uniformly dismissive about the recent Budget from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, with most not only doubtful that they will be better off as a result, but suggesting that the Budget's tax cuts will push up inflation.

The study by the Institute of Management is the first significant test of business opinion since the Budget. A sample of more than 300 of the institute's members was questioned imm-

ediately after last month's Budget, with 72 per cent saying they expect interest rates to rise again before the election. Three fifths do not believe that the Chancellor's tax cuts were justified, and more than half said that the reductions make an increase in inflation more likely.

Three fifths of those sampled are doubtful that the Budget will increase business investment, with 53 per cent suggesting that the Budget focused on short-term political issues rather than the economy in the long term.

Managers do not believe in the Government's forecasts about the economy, as laid out in the Budget, and do not believe they will personally benefit from its measures.

Meanwhile, 69 per cent do not believe that the Government will achieve its target of a 7 per cent cut in spending, and more than half doubt that the Government will hit its 2.5 per cent inflation target next year. Two fifths are sceptical about the Government's growth target.

On personal benefits, 71 per cent of managers surveyed, representing more than 73,000 individual managers at all levels in British companies as well as 700 corporate members, say they have not gained at all in the Budget. A quarter believe they will be worse off.

Roger Young, the Institute of Management's director-general, says: "Managers do not share the Chancellor's breezy confidence about the UK economy. A shiver runs up their spines as they face the chilling prospect of rising interest rates and inflation. They believe the risks taken could blow away any rewards generated by the Budget."

On small business, the Chancellor's proposals to ease the impact on small firms of the uniform business rate are the only measures to find favour. Three quarters of managers in small firms do not believe the increase in VAT thresholds will benefit their businesses.



New toys: John Swingewood, broadcast services manager at British Telecom, which is paying £6 million for a further 15 transportable earth stations. The mobile satellite stations are used to boost television signals to studios

UK bonds beginning to look good

The year 1996 has generally been the year of the convergence trade. Italian and Spanish bonds, to name but two, have outperformed the UK. The gilt market has been a notable exception. In the past year, the spread between gilts and bonds has widened substantially. One reason may have been reassessment of which countries are likely to take part in the first round of EMU. In addition, macro-economic developments in the UK have not been favourable. Growth has risen and inflation has been disappointing. The annual rise in RPIX is likely to be 3.25 per cent in the fourth quarter, half a percentage point above the market expectation at the start of the year. Also, the 1996-97 PSBR has not fallen as much as projected in last year's Budget.

Sterling, in contrast to gilts' underperformance, has increased in strength — the recent peak of the pound's effective index was 14 per cent above the level at the beginning of the year. This has happened at a time when interest rate expectations have been revised up and the current account has unexpectedly improved. In addition, the dollar strength has provided a favourable background for sterling.

It has not been all bad news for gilts. The combination of currency strength and higher yields has tempted foreign investors into the gilt market. Recent Bank of England data shows that the overseas purchase of gilts in October was the largest since records began. This is an acceleration of the general trend; the overseas sector has been a net buyer of gilts in every month of 1996, except one.

This trend could easily be sped up in coming months by Japanese capital flows. The background is that Japanese institutions have guaranteed higher returns to investors than are currently offered by Japanese government bond (JGB) yields. This will encourage capital to flow out of Japan in search of higher yield, especially at a time when the JGB market is looking increasingly vulnerable.

In addition, the weakness of the yen in recent months

has made Japanese investors less wary of exchange rate risk. A shift of only 1 per cent in total Japanese securities holding by the main institutional investor base towards overseas markets would amount to \$40 billion. The primary beneficiaries of this will be treasuries and bonds, but gilts are also likely to be of interest, with about 20 per cent likely to be focused in non-core currencies.

The main risk for international investors would be fresh currency weakness, which could be triggered if monetary policy were not tightened as much as the market expects. This is not a big threat. Admittedly, rates are unlikely to be raised aggressively before a general election. The Chancellor, in his Budget, said he was tightening fiscal policy now to ease the risk of having to tighten monetary policy. However, in mid-1997, growth will clearly be above potential and inflation will be picking up, so whoever wins the election will need to tighten monetary policy. Expectations of higher rates at the end of 1997 are likely to keep sterling strong next year.

Foreign buying is unlikely to be sufficient to trigger a major rally in gilts immediately. The very combination of strong growth and stubborn inflation that is making the market expect higher rates and keeping the currency strong will prevent substantial spread narrowing before the general election. Also, political uncertainty continues to dog the market.

However, overseas interest should prevent a significant widening beyond the current level. Also, the very fact that gilts have not benefited from EMU-inspired convergence trades makes them less vulnerable to disappointment if expectations of monetary union unwind.

With spreads unlikely to widen further, the higher return offered by gilts is beginning to make them a valuable investment.

KATY PETERS AND SANJAY JOSHI
Daiwa Europe

Reuters denies cash return

Reuters, the financial information group, denied weekend reports that it has shelved plans to return some of its near-£1 billion cash pile to shareholders. An earlier plan to pay back £613 million through special dividend shares was stymied by tax changes in October. Reuters is thought to be waiting for Finance Bill changes before deciding whether to renew the attempt. As there is no concrete plan to return value to shareholders, a suggestion that it had been abandoned was "completely without foundation", the company said.

3% rises

Most wage deals in the engineering industry in the quarter to October were for 3 per cent or less, according to a survey of 142 firms by the Engineering Employers' Federation. October was the first month for nearly three years in which no pay freezes were reported.

TR deadline

Investors in the TR Technology split capital investment trust have until 3pm tomorrow to roll over into the new Henderson Technology Trust. Holders of 54.3 per cent of TR ordinary shares have agreed to swap.

WTO summit

World Trade Organisation ministers begin their inaugural five-day meeting in Singapore today, with customs modernisation and cross-border investment top of the agenda, according to business leaders.

Pearson buys stake in South African papers

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON, owner of the *Financial Times*, is to announce today that it has entered the South African newspaper market with purchases worth about £11.5 million.

It is buying 50 per cent of *Business Day* and an equal share of the *Financial Mail*, a weekly, from Times Media, a South African publishing and TV group. The former has a circulation of 40,200; the latter 31,100. Pearson said the *Financial Times* will help the two titles to expand in their home markets and develop their international coverage.

Pearson is forming a company called African Business Media to hold its interest in the newspapers. A TV company called the African Business Channel, which produces a nightly business news programme, will become part of the company. It is currently owned by a partnership between Times Media and the *Financial Times*' TV division.



Scardino: expected to sell

Victory for German metal union

By Oliver August

GERMAN employers yesterday caved in to the demands of strike-happy metal workers over a 20 per cent sick pay cut. Provisions for the cut, made in a new law, will not be implemented although the loss-making metal industry is losing 100,000 jobs every year.

Employers had taken a hard line in failed national and regional pay talks to enforce the cuts. However, the powerful IG Metall union replied with strikes, drawing tens of thousands to keep sick pay in line with full wages.

Werner Stumpfe, the employers' negotiator, said that the deal failed to meet the goal of cutting costs, but no other outcome had been possible.

IG Metall said that all-out strikes were possible next year if deals are not made nationwide protecting full sick pay.

Under former law, overtime work counted towards sick pay, and sick workers could receive more than those working normal hours.

Greenwood on the cards

By Sarah Cunningham

STUART GREENWOOD, the former finance director of Spring Ram, is set to take a higher business profile after the acquisition by The Greeting Store Group, the company he now runs, of Strand Libraries, the greetings card retailer.

The privately owned Strand, the fourth-largest greetings card retailer in the UK, went into administration in May, owing more than £7 million and with sufficient cash flow to continue trading during the summer — tradi-

Bid report goes to Lang

By Martin Waller

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission will today pass to the Department of Trade and Industry a report on yet another politically sensitive takeover battle in the utilities sector — the attempt by two French companies to wrest control of Mid Kent Holdings, the supplier of water to 530,000 customers in Kent.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will consider the commission's findings before giving a final ruling on whether a bid should be allowed next month. The two

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No. 006515 of 1996

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY NATWEST LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15th November, 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £300,000,000 to £10,000,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 18th day of December, 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 9th day of December, 1996.

LINKLATERS & PAINES (DTL)
Barrington House
39-47 Crenshaw Street
London EC2V 7JA
Solicitors for the above-named Company

Institutions courted for £50m rights

Wickes seeks fresh start

By Sarah Cunningham

THE MANAGEMENT OF Wickes, the scandal-hit DIY chain, is to hold a final round of meetings with institutional shareholders early this week in an effort to persuade them to support a £50 million rights issue, set to be launched on Thursday.

Some institutional investors are concerned that the company, whose former senior management is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, has increased the amount it wants to raise from £20 million.

One fund manager, who is due to meet Wickes's managers this week, said: "We are all still in the dark, and need to hear what Wickes have to say



A bidder may pounce before we take any decisions." The Wickes management began visits to institutional investors last week. The recapitalisation will allow trading in Wickes shares, suspended in June, to restart. It could also trigger a bidding war. The suspension came after accounting irregularities were uncovered at the company.

Wickes has since disclosed that there had been "deliberate misrepresentation" of rebate arrangements with suppliers. The SFO said last month that it had begun an inquiry into the activities of former senior managers.

The prospectus, which advisers hope to be able to release on Thursday, will include a restatement of 1995 profits and interim results for this year. The information could spur a bid for Wickes. Companies thought to be possible suitors are RMC and Kingfisher, owner of B&Q.

GOLD FIELDS LIMITED

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

The company has declared a final dividend No. 167 of 110 cents per ordinary share in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27 December 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 5 February 1997 at, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 4 February 1997.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer offices and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 28 December 1996 to 3 January 1997, inclusive.

By order of the Board
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretary
S.J. Dunning, Secretary
London Office and Office of
United Kingdom Registrar
Greencoat House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

Head Office:
75 Fox Street
Johannesburg 2001
Republic of South Africa

6 December 1996

Baby boomers face picking up the bill for US budget deficit

Not everyone accepts need to balance the books, says Bronwen Maddox

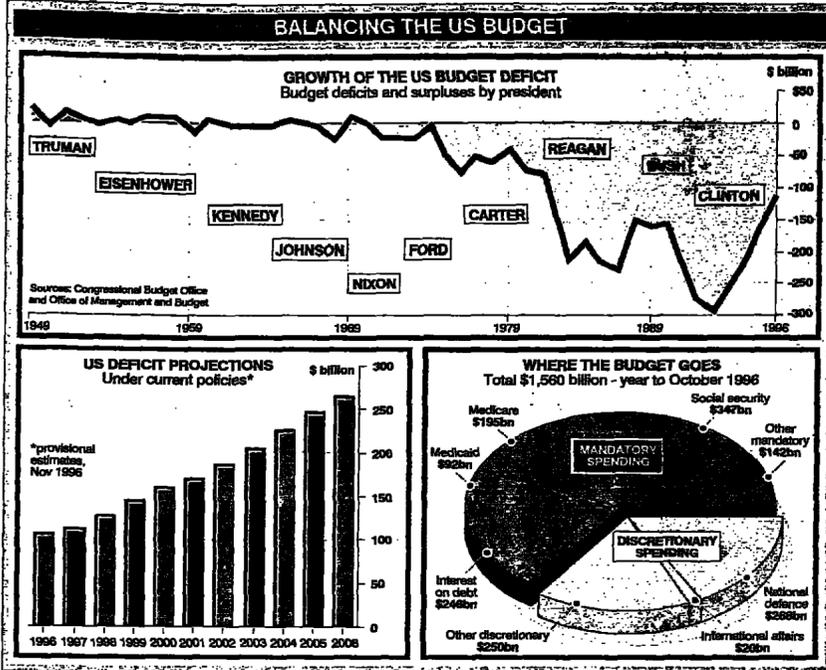
The turmoil on world stock markets after Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Bank chairman, criticised Wall Street's "irrational exuberance" on Thursday, meant that his remarks the next day on the looming US budget crisis went unheard. In a speech in Philadelphia Mr Greenspan said that America's social security system was heading for bankruptcy if taxes were not raised or benefits slashed. "Clearly, something has to give — the question is what," he said.

That comment has more implications for the long-term buoyancy of Wall Street than his tart observation about the market's frothiness. Social security is just one factor in the problem of the US budget deficit, the gap between government annual income and spending, which threatens to push up national debt and interest rates, choking economic growth. President Clinton has said that making progress on balancing the budget is the highest priority of his second term, and the Republican-controlled Congress may soon pass an amendment to the US constitution forcing him to do so.

Yet, neither Mr Clinton nor Congress has come up with a plausible plan for how to trim the deficit. For a good reason: solutions mean radically re-writing the financial contract that US citizens have come to believe that they have with their Government. In particular, it means telling the generation that has grown up since the Second World War, middle-class baby boomers like Mr Clinton himself, that they are going to be much poorer than they expected.

There are few more electorally unpalatable messages a politician can deliver. But as Mr Greenspan said, the longer action is deferred, the greater the eventual tax increases, or more likely, the cuts in benefits.

The idea that balancing the budget is a pressing task is not accepted by many US economists and political commentators. They have a point, in theory. The deficit is just an accounting number; there is no simple relationship with the economy's growth or people's level of income. It is quite reasonable for governments to borrow at periods in the economic cycle to finance investment,



provided that the debt can be repaid out of future income. As the chart shows, there has not been a US budget surplus since 1969, in a budget proposed by President Nixon and inherited by President Ford.

Critics of budget balancing are also right to complain that the deficit has taken on a symbolic importance in Americans' minds for dubious reasons; people regard it as a sign of whether the Government is out of control, rather than as one economic indicator among many. That confusion has led to the clumsy attempt to use the US constitution to specify details of fiscal policy.

All the same, there is a good reason to think that at this point the deficit should be cut sharply. For a start, as David Hale, an influential economic commentator based in Chicago, points out: "At this point in the business cycle we should expect to be running a surplus."

Robert Reischauer, the former director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, goes further: "We should be running a surplus now, not just because of the business cycle, but because of the stage we're at in the demographic cycle."

The core of the problem is that in the second and third decades of the next century, when the baby boom generation has retired, government

income will fall short of the amounts needed for social security and Medicare, the programme of medical care for the elderly, as well as for welfare programmes such as Medicaid. On social security alone, Mr Greenspan noted on Friday, funds are due to run out by 2029 and reach a shortfall of "a staggering \$3 trillion" by 2070.

If steps are not taken soon, taxes will soar in those decades or the framework of benefits will collapse. Mr Clinton, who says that his second term will be dedicated to meeting that

challenge, has been helped by the economy's recent strength. Projections of the deficit to 2006 (shown in the chart) have been revised downwards by roughly a third since the summer as economic growth has boosted tax revenues and squeezed unemployment benefits.

But he has so far failed to produce a coherent plan of how he will bring a balanced budget closer. His campaign promise to preserve Medicare, Medicaid, education and environmental programmes implied that the burden of cuts would

fall on non-defence discretionary spending.

This category includes many programmes that are essentially corporate subsidies, such as small business aid, export promotion and energy research. Mr Clinton may be able to trim them, although special interest groups will fight passionately for their preservation. But this category, which also includes the Coast Guard, national parks and some educational programmes, makes up only a sixth of the total budget. If the budget were to be balanced purely by cuts in this area, the role of the federal government in the economy would fall back to the same level as the beginning of the 1950s, a reversal voters are unlikely to support.

Some policy advisers suggest taking advantage of last week's revelation that inflation has been miscalculated for the past two decades, using this as a way to reduce index-linked payments such as social security. But other advisers point out that voters would spot this as a cut in benefits.

In practice, the savings that Mr Clinton is likely to scrape together, after fierce political battles, may appear to support his claim that the deficit is heading for zero by 2002. But they will not be on a scale to stop it gaping open again after 2010. Despite Mr Clinton's promises, most models suggest that the necessary cuts will eventually have to come from

Medicare, Medicaid and social security.

A federal advisory panel which has been studying the social security funding problem for two years has been sharply divided over the best way forward. Part of the panel believes in a solution that has been dubbed a "magic wand" — investing social security funds in the stock market rather than government bonds in the hope that they will yield higher returns. But other panel members accept that cuts in entitlements are almost inevitable. That has led them to explore a plan that has until now been taboo: requiring people to put money aside for their retirement.

Despite the US's culture of private enterprise, and provision of a safety net that is skimpy compared with that in many European countries, there is enormous public resistance to the idea of privatising state benefits. Yet, many government advisers state bluntly that unless baby boomers begin to save more, their expectations of retirement will be severely disappointed.

Mr Reischauer says: "Most 40-year-old Americans, asked 'how are you going to live in retirement?' look around at their parents and say 'like that'. They don't understand the very peculiar circumstances which have allowed their parents to live as well as they do, in particular the huge appreciation in the value of housing." The parents of baby boomers, many of whom grew up during recession when public health and pension schemes were scanty, saved "too much" — they put by money for their old age, and then were showered with bounty by government schemes.

What is more, many baby boomers have suffered divorces, which tend to be financially ruinous. Remarriage or late marriage mean that many have children in college when they are in their 50s; in contrast, they left their parents' homes when they were in their twenties or teens.

Warnings by Mr Greenspan are unlikely to be enough to persuade politicians, working to a four-year horizon, to cut public spending or raise taxes by enough to head off the next century's crisis in federal entitlements. It has never been easy to persuade people working now to pay more for the benefit of future generations, as voters' reluctance to pay for environmental preservation shows.

It is possible, however, that his warnings might jolt people into saving more of their income to protect themselves in the future. Baby boomers might start to make amends on their own behalf for the near-certainty that politicians will not grapple with the crisis until it is upon them.



Alan Greenspan and Bill Clinton say the deficit needs tackling

Ecology for everyone

Present Tense: The Enduring World of the Innu. Radio 3, 9.20pm. James Wilson presents this five-part series about the customs and folklore of the Innu, indigenous to the Labrador/Quebec peninsula in northeast Canada. It is what he says, certainly not the rather lacklustre way he says it, that makes this series a fine example of popular ecology. Contemporary opinion, based on European concepts of cultural development, is that this little-known nation of hunters is an anachronism. "Stone Age Arctic nomads," is how one Canadian television commentator dismissed them just a couple of years ago. But Wilson says the Innu see themselves very differently — as part of a sacred reality in which animals, human beings and land are joyfully intertwined.

The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. Radio 4, 2.00pm. Shocks follow on each others' heels so closely in part two of Elizabeth Proud's play sequence about Edward (Christopher Cazenove) and Mrs Simpson (Stockard Channing) that, in what seems less than a wink after HRH is telling the notorious American that she must miss central heating in London, she is admonishing him not to eat with his fingers like a naughty boy. And while husband Ernest is doing up in a nightclub, his spouse and the Prince are gliding across the dancefloor to the tune of *Too Hot for Two*. Popular songs of the day are used throughout the play like punctuation marks. Fortunately, they include *Let's Face the Music and Dance*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00am Lisa 'Anson', includes at 12.30pm-12.45am Newsbeat 2.00am Nicky Campbell 4.00am Mark Goodier, includes 5.30-5.45am Newsbeat 7.00am Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq 8.00am John Peel's Classic Radio Chat 9.00am John Peel 10.00am Mark Radcliffe 12.00am Claire Sturgess, includes at 12.15am The Net 4.30am Chris Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30am Wake Up to Women 8.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Durn 7.00pm Hubert 7.30pm Madsen Laycock, with Dances Band 8.30pm Big Band Special 9.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00pm Moby on Monday: Anna Ford (8.30-10.30pm) The Jazzmen 10.00pm Steve Macdonald 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, incl at 6.45 Wake Up to money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.45, 7.25 racing reviews 6.35 The Magazine, with Dean Macd, incl at 10.35 News from Europe 12.00pm Midday with Mel, incl at 12.30pm Newsnight 2.00pm Race on Five 4.00pm National and at 6.45 Entertainment News 7.00pm News Extra, incl at 7.25 Sports Bulletin 7.35 Sportschat 8.05pm The Monday Match, Newcastle United v Nottingham Forest 10.05pm News 11.00pm Night Extra 12.00am The Other Side of Midnight 2.00am All Night

TALK RADIO

8.00am Early Breakfast 7.00am Paul Ross 8.30am Scott Cranston 12.00am Anna Fenn 1.00pm Tommie Tommy News 4.00pm DriveTime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Muz Dee's Sportszone 10.00pm James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, with Perry Gore, includes Britains (Variations on a theme by Haydn, St Anselm Chantry, Alford) (Concerto in C for trumpet, three oboes, bassoon and contrabass) Verdi (Era più calmo), his opera, Ave Maria, Oello, Act 4; Gershwin (Sweet and lowdown); Novlette in Fourths; So am I) 8.30am An Advent Calendar, Malcolm Bruno introduces more Christmas carols performed by British amateur choirs. Esterházy Singers under Nicholas Barnan, William Billings (A Virgin Unspiced); Gruber (Silent Night); Jeremiah Ingal (Gloria to God on high) 9.00am Morning Collection, Rosini (Overture; Sentimental); Ruffice (Crisis of Nubia); Dvořák (Cello Concerto in B minor) 10.00am Musical Encounters, with Chris Miles includes Schumann (Kinderszenen); Bizet (Chant d'Amour); Ravel (D'après); Enesco (Flowerlike Rhapsody No 2); Schubert (String Trio in B flat, Allegro); Berioz (La Mort d'Ophélie); Bruckner (Glorious Quintet in F, original version) 12.00am Composer of the Week, Robert Simpson with Stephen Johnson 1.00pm News, BBC Lunchtime Concert, Live from St John's, Smith Square, London, 11.30am Concert, Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 54 No 1); Berg (Lyric Suite) 2.00pm The BBC Christmas Eve, BBC Philharmonic under Yehudi Yannoulet, with Pascal Tondelet, with the

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Trekkers' pain and pleasure

TRUBLED "trekkers", distraught at hearing that last weekend's Star Trek Christmas SG-FI Special at Wembley Arena had been cancelled, were offered the sultry sounds of a sex line.

Happily Wembley Arena sent out a release outlining the change of plans with the wrong number for Eye Communications at its tail end.

Instead of reaching the public relations company, callers were put through to a softly spoken female voice. "Congratulations, you have reached a higher plane of pleasure. We are not available to take your call right now, but if you would like to leave any intimate thoughts with Melanie, Belinda, or Heidi, please leave your name... please don't be scared off by the beeps, our line is never full."

Talking it up

SIR Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, ought to be delighted with the outcome of last week's Oxford Union debate, which the company sponsored. Peter Setfield, acclaimed speech coach, and Julia Cole, agony aunt and spokeswoman for Relate, proposed the winning motion "It's Good to Talk". Speaking for the opposition were Aric Sigman, psychologist and broadcaster, and Stephen Burger, a journalist. Maureen Lipman, the actress and former face of the BT advertisements, summed up the motion and announced it carried by 91

Clubbing time

FOLLOWING my reports on the Berkeley Playhouse, London's first table-dancing club, I receive a call from Peter Stringfellow. He tells me that the club in Dover Street, currently looking for investors, doesn't yet have a licence. What's more, Stringfellow let slip that he is also planning to open his own club in Mayfair, not a million miles away from the Berkeley Playhouse site. Angels of Mayfair is scheduled to open for ogling by April next year. Meanwhile, John Paul, owner of

Rival's role

the Litten Tree, took it all in his stride, and invited Reed to pull the first pint.

Memory lane

TOM HUNTER, managing director of Sports Division, was reliving memories of his childhood at the weekend. Along with board members from the sports chain that recently took over Oxfords, he put in a day's work on the shopfloor. Brian McCuskey, finance director, and Ian Grabin, commercial director, joined Hunter at the Oxford Street store. All three travelled from Scotland, staying overnight at an hotel, to work from 9 until 6 on Saturday evening. The practice has been standard since Sports Division started ten years ago with 40 stores. Decked out in a tracksuit and baseball cap, Hunter recalled helping his father in the family grocery shop from the age of five.

It's a lockout

ON AN institutional visit to the Allied Colloids chemicals plant in Bradford, James Dean, on specialist sales at James Capel, locked himself out of his hotel bedroom. Wandering into the corridor in the middle of the night, he heard the door lock behind him. Weaving his way along the corridor, dressed in boxer shorts, Dean panicked and set off an alarm. Hotel staff came to his rescue, somewhat bemused as to why he was wandering through the hall and not tucked up in his bed.

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Clubbing time

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SOUTH SEA PEARL
DIAMOND WITH
DIAMOND FROM 1.25

FABULOUS PEARL QUARTZ
SERVANT FROM 1.25

FABULOUS PEARL QUARTZ
SERVANT FROM 1.25

WHITE SOUTH SEA PEARL
SERVANT FROM 1.25

FABULOUS PEARL QUARTZ
AND DIAMOND DROP
EARRINGS FROM 1.25

SOUTH SEA PEARL
DIAMOND EARRINGS
FROM 1.25

MIKIMOTO

179 New Bond Street, London W1 6LU Tel: 01753 461 5320



Maureen Lipman announced the motion was carried

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 8

Seventeen sex scenes, give or take a couple

Quite where it was I first second helpings count twice and, for that matter, do fully clothed couplings count at all? Answer no to both and our tally could be as low as nine and tonight's concluding episode should be a busy one.

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Christmas holds some real surprises, a certainty. But nearly every body else - from Diana Rigg down, as my colleague Lynne Truss pointed out last week - has fallen short of the expected mark.



Gluck Gluck Gluck (BBC2, Friday). You might think that a man who founded a second career (his first was in advertising, I believe) on the word 'plonk' might have had the decency to move on to a third career based on something a little more contemporary by now.

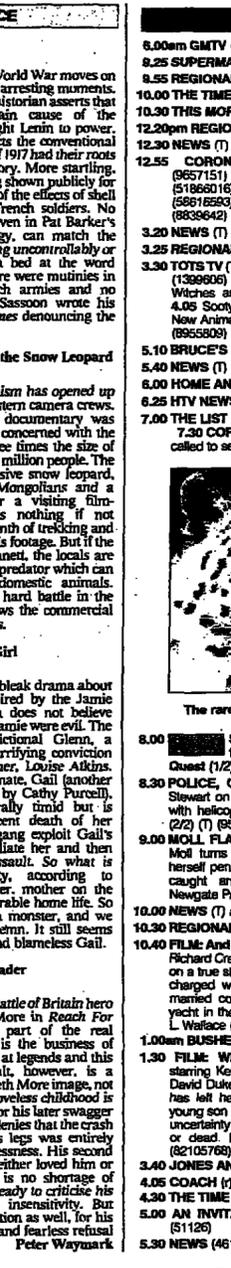
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national debunker (where others quaff, Gluck scoffs) Gluck ought to be above all that 'teaky, limpy, hint of under-ripe melody' nonsense but alas - no.

- BBC1
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (37536)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (68308)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (1053170)
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (4943489)
9.45 KILROY (6776538)
10.30 CANT COOK, WONT COOK With Ainsley Harriott (37354)
11.00 NEWS (1), regional news and weather (3482422) 10.25 The Really Useful Show (6463335) 11.45 Smilie's People (6800006)
12.00 NEWS (1), regional news and weather (5123535)
12.00pm QUINCY (3408063) 12.50 The Westwood Show (30072800)
1.00 NEWS (1) and weather (61996)
1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (27129426)
1.40 NEIGHBOURS (1) (29813422) 2.00 Call My Bluff (6189) 2.30 Who's Do the Pudding? (847) 3.00 Incomplete (800)
3.30 THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY (1836480) 3.55 Badger and Badger (2101034) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1801644) 4.35 Record Breakers (1) (7795757) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5355118) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (8657625)
5.35 NEIGHBOURS (1) (1) (481084)
6.00 (1) and weather (248)
6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (828)
7.00 TELLY ADDICTS Noel Edmonds presents the second semi-final of the television trivia quiz (1) (5915)
7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD Includes a look at what is claimed to be the world's earliest car, which a mechanics say is impossible to crash (1) (712)
8.00 EASTENDERS Phil and Grant learn some disturbing facts about George. Peggy has another hospital appointment. (1) (5335)
8.30 CHEF! Comedy drama starring Lenny Henry. With his divorce looming, Gareth is prone to severe mood swings as he mingles with the diners (1) (7170)
9.00 NEWS (1) and weather (7809)
9.30 PANORAMA: THE PRICE IS WRONG John Ware investigates allegations that the prices of his, television and fridges are being kept artificially high (1) (72847)
10.10 BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA As the Scottish comedian's tour nears its end, Billy arrives in the Outback, where he visits an op-mining town and sees underground homes equipped with bars and swimming pools (1) (67731)
10.50 COMMON AS MUCK Comedy series about a gang of dustmen (1) (750151) WALES: The Slatia 11.20 Film 96 11.50 Common as Muck 12.45 Smilie's People 1.30 News
11.50 FILM 96 WITH BARRY NORMAN Reviews of 101 Dalmanians with Glenn Cloos as Cruella DeVil, Sky Trek - First Contact and 1 Shot Andy Warhol which charts the artist's attempt to kill the 1950s artist and filmmaker. Plus, Sylvester Stallone talks about his latest action movie, Daylight (1) (738800)
12.20am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (2345257)
1.05 WEATHER (9687871)
VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus Codes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ codes. These allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the code for the programme you wish to watch to record. VideoPlus+ (V), MusicCode (M) and Video Programme are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2
6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Lifestyles, Work and the Family (2253990) 6.50 A New Role for Men (6151151) 7.15 500 Year Breakfast News (2182338) 7.30 Yearly Duck (5008422) 7.50 Blue Peter (5018538) 8.15 Charlie Chalk (5450680) 8.30 Lasse (48460) 9.00 The World's Worst (1080460) 9.15 Turner and Tazewell (561557) 10.00 Pipelines (2513488) 10.25 The Champions (8340064) 11.15 The Phil Stevens Show (2525052) 11.40 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (3336539) 12.00 Ken Horne's Hot Hot (26248) 12.30 Working Lunch (67847) 1.00 Charlie Chalk (9885626)
1.15 FILM: Third Finger Left Hand (1940) (b/w) Comedy starring Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (6001170)
2.50 A WEEK TO REMEMBER (3180644) 3.00 News (7209422) 3.05 The Natural World (2543460) 3.55 News (6019828) 4.00 Today's Day (441) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Go! (625) 5.00 Esther (7793) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (977)
6.00 SPACE PRECINCT (1) (1) (849441)
6.45 AS SEEN ON TV (459286)
7.00 1914-18: Mutiny By 1917 the strain of war was beginning to show on both the battle and home fronts (b/w) (316563)
7.50 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS The tasks undertaken by children, who are currently fighting in conflicts in thirty-two countries around the world (582511)
8.00 HORIZON: Researching the work of a British chemist and his colleagues who won the Nobel Prize for their research which resulted in a third form of carbon being identified (1) (715151)
8.50 GARDENERS' WORLD TAKE TWO Highlights from recent programmes (1) (879731)
9.00 WICKED WOMEN: KING GIRL Gripping drama about an all-gid gang who virtually destroy the life of a naive girl who is grieving for her dead father. With Louise Atkins and Cathy Purcell (215073)
10.15 MATCH OF THE DAY The FA Cup third round draw, live (288947)
10.30 NEWSNIGHT (1) (555783)
11.15 A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS: Assisted Conception (627733)
11.45 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS (1) (589896)
12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (1) (1652)
12.30am THE LEARNING ZONE: O.U. - Women Artists (27584) 1.00 Managing Schools (64132) 1.30 Managing in Organizations (51710) 2.00 Living Legends (1984) (9782648) 2.30 Italia '90 (200) (82402) 3.00 Defeating Disease (89497) 3.30 Pathways to Care (57300) 4.00 Newsround Update (42381)
12.00 See of Lasse (1945) (94115) 12.00 XXX and OOOs (1894) (68959) 2.00m The Best of the Best (1977) (36248) 3.00m From the Earth to the Moon (1970) (22460) 3.30m The Last Great Warrior (1994) (42712) 4.00m Murder on My Mind (1984) (64557) 4.30m Boys on the Beach (1982) (103519) 5.00m The Last Days of Pompeii (1982) (103519) 5.30m The Last Days of Pompeii (1982) (103519) 6.00m The Last Days of Pompeii (1982) (103519)
SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Ape in the Hole (1981) (83884) 4.30 The Bears (1984) (82833) 5.00m Return from the River Kosi (1984) (82833) 5.30m The Pope of Greenwich Village (1984) (82833) 6.00m The Village (1984) (82833) 6.30m The Village (1984) (82833) 7.00m The Village (1984) (82833) 7.30m The Village (1984) (82833) 8.00m The Village (1984) (82833) 8.30m The Village (1984) (82833) 9.00m The Village (1984) (82833) 9.30m The Village (1984) (82833) 10.00m The Village (1984) (82833) 10.30m The Village (1984) (82833) 11.00m The Village (1984) (82833) 11.30m The Village (1984) (82833) 12.00m The Village (1984) (82833)
THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
10.00am The Sandlot (200257) 6.25m Sky Attack (200257) 6.50m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 7.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 7.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 8.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 8.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 9.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 9.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 10.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 10.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 11.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 11.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 12.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248)
SKY 2
7.00pm Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 7.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 8.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 8.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 9.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 9.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 10.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 10.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 11.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 11.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 12.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248)
SKY NEWS
Weekdays news coverage, with bulletin on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
SKY MOVIES
6.00am Charlie (1989) (22088) 6.30m The Sandlot (200257) 7.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 7.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 8.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 8.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 9.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 9.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 10.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 10.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 11.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 11.30m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248) 12.00m Star Trek: Voyager (1997) (36248)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00pm Three Blind Mice (1938) (7857) 7.30m From the Earth to the Moon (1970) (22460) 8.30m Gulliver's Travels (1936)

- CHOICE
1914-18: Mutiny BBC2, 7.00pm
The history of the First World War moves on to 1917 and contains two arresting moments. One is where a Russian historian asserts that the war was the main cause of the revolutions which brought Lenin to power. In one sentence he rejects the conventional wisdom that the events of 1917 had their roots far back in Russian history. More startling, particularly as it is being shown publicly for the first time, is footage of the effects of shell shock on British and French soldiers. No verbal description, not even in Pat Barker's fine Regeneration trilogy, can match the sight of one man twitching uncontrollably or another diving under a bed in a 'visiting bomb' No wonder there were mutinies in the Russian and French armies and no wonder that Siegfried Sassoon wrote his famous letter to The Times denouncing the war as evil and unjust.
Survival: Mountains of the Snow Leopard ITV, 8.00pm
The collapse of communism has opened up areas long barred to Western camera crews. Joel Bennet's two-part documentary was shot in Mongolia and is concerned with the wildlife of a country three times the size of France but with only two million people. The star is the rare and elusive snow leopard, seldom seen even by Mongolians and a particular challenge for a visiting filmmaker. But Bennet is nothing if not persistent and after a month of trekking and tracking he finally gets his footage. But if the big cat is a coup for Bennet, the locals are less enthusiastic about a predator which can attack and kill their domestic animals. Conservationists have a battle in the only country which allows the commercial hunting of snow leopards.
Wicked Women: King Girl BBC2, 9.00pm
Philomena McDonagh's bleak drama about a school bully was inspired by the Jamie Bulger case. McDonagh does not believe in the myth of the 'innocent' child. The same applies to the fictional Glenn, a teenager played with horrifying conviction by a 16-year-old newcomer, Louise Atkins. Glenn's target is a classmate, Gail (another fine debut performance, by Cathy Purcell), who is not only naturally kind but is particularly kind to Glenn's father, Glenn's father and her gang exploit Gail's grief to tease and humiliate her and then move on to physical assault. So what is Glenn's excuse? Plenty, according to McDonagh: absent father, mother on the game, a wretched, intolerable home life. So innocent is a victim, not a monster, and we should not rush to condemn. It still seems tough on the bereaved and blameless Gail.
Secret Lives: Douglas Bader Channel 4, 9.00pm
The hearty, courageous Battle of Britain hero portrayed by Kenneth More in Reach for the Sky was certainly part of the real Douglas Bader. But it is the business of Secret Lives to chip away at legends and this it duly does. The result, however, is a modification of the Kenneth More image, not a total debunk. Bader's loveless childhood is suggested as the reason for his later swagger and arrogance. Nobody denies that the crash which cost him both his legs was entirely caused by his own recklessness. His second wife admits that people either loved him or loathed him and there is no shortage of former RAF colleagues ready to criticise his bluster, selfishness and insensitivity. But his later years are a study in admiration as well, for his inspirational leadership and fearless refusal to accept disability. Peter Waymark



The rare snow leopard (8.00pm)

- MTV
6.00am GMTV (702557)
6.25 SUPERMARKET SWEEP (1) (4911830)
6.55 REGIONAL NEWS (1) (2590536)
10.00 THE TIME... THE PLACE (49262)
10.30 THIS MORNING (6033977)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (3228293)
12.30 NEWS (1) and weather (9815002)
12.55 CORONATION STREET (1) (1) (957151) 2.00 Home and Away (1) (51868016) 2.25 Cross Valley (1) (5818293) 2.55 Look and Cook (893642)
3.20 NEWS (1) (7216712)
3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (1) (7215083)
3.30 TOTS TV (705985) 3.40 The Slow Mantis (132600) 3.50 Cinderella - A Witch's Wishes and Giants Special (345521) 4.05 Scooby and Co (1915847) 4.25 All New Animatics (1981287) 4.50 How 2 (895808)
5.10 BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (7472625)
5.40 NEWS (1) and weather (930915)
6.00 HOME AND AWAY (1) (1) (487820)
6.25 HTV NEWS (1) (638422)
7.00 THE LIST (4083)
7.30 CORONATION STREET Tricia is called to see Mike at the factory (1) (880)
8.00 SURVIVAL: Mountains of the Snow Leopard - The Quest (1/2) (1) (3731)
8.30 POLICE, CAMERA, ACTION! Alastair Stewart on a series of live assignments with helicopter news journalist Bob Tur (2/2) (1) (9538)
9.00 MOLL FLANDERS In the final episode Moll turns to thinking when she finds herself penniless in London, but is soon caught and sentenced to hang in Newgate Prison (1) (5809)
10.00 NEWS (1) and weather (47731)
10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (1) (763335)
10.40 FILM: And the Sea Will Tell (1991) With Richard O'Connell and Rachel Ward. Based on a true story. A man and a woman are charged with murder six years after a framed couple disappeared from their yacht in the Pacific. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace (1) (24824064)
1.00am BUSHELL ON THE BOX (89858)
1.30 FILM WITHOUT A TRACE (1983) starring Kate Nelligan, Judd Hirsch and David Dukes. A mother whose husband has left her returns home to find her young son missing. She faces months of uncertainty before she knows if he is alive or dead. Directed by Stanley R Jaffe (82105768)
3.40 JONES AND JURY (6017887)
4.05 COACH (1) (26841584)
5.00 THE TIME... THE PLACE (76923)
5.00 AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER (1) (51126)
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150

BUSINESS

SAILING 43
Airtours heads for calmer profit waters



FIGHTING 42
BAe back in the hunt for £100bn contract

BCCI victims to receive first payment

By Robert Miller, Banking Correspondent

SOME 30,000 creditors of the failed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), which collapsed in 1991 with debts of \$10 billion, are set to receive their first, long-awaited "dividend" payments this week.

The BCCI payments, which will be sent by cheque and electronic transfer to 130 countries, will be the equivalent of 24p in the pound. Deloitte & Touche, the UK liquidator of the failed bank, said this weekend that it hopes to make a second payment within the next year.

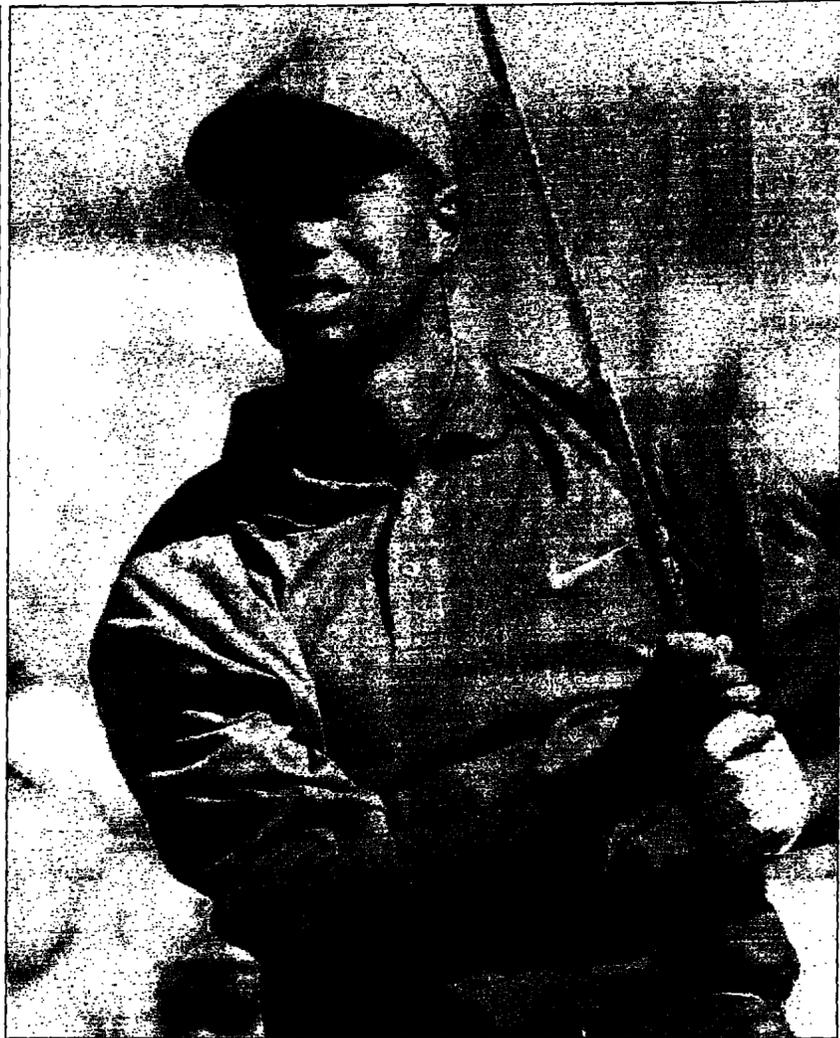
It is understood that the second payout could be in the order of 10 per cent, although this will depend on the outcome of some of the hundreds of outstanding court actions being taken to recover further funds.

The bulk of the first BCCI dividend comes from the \$1.55 billion paid to the liquidators by the Government of Abu Dhabi, the bank's principal shareholder. The kingdom's Government is set to pay a further \$150 million in April 1998, with a final payment of \$100 million shortly after.

In addition to this money the liquidators have recovered a further \$503 million, chiefly from the United States.

Those in charge of the payouts to creditors are hoping that legal actions, including those against the Bank of England, BCCI's regulator in the UK, and Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse, the bank's auditors, could further swell the dividend pot. Other parties that had interests in BCCI could still face fresh litigation.

The payments to BCCI creditors have been delayed after a series of legal challenges, chiefly in the Luxembourg courts, but also to a lesser extent in the United Kingdom. Deloitte & Touche and Lovell White and Durant, the



On another Planet: Tiger Woods is set to drive into the star-studded theme restaurant chain by taking a share stake

Planet teeing up Tiger Woods

By Keith Rodgers

PLANET Hollywood, the star-studded theme restaurant chain run by Robert Earl, is set to announce a further coup with the signing of Tiger Woods, the 20-year-old golfing prodigy.

Woods, tipped to emerge as the world's greatest ever golfer, is expected to take a stake in Planet Hollywood, joining the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis. His involvement follows a concerted effort by the chain in recent months to quash rumours that some of its stars, who own around 17 per cent of the company, might be preparing to sell up. The speculation, which Mr Earl said had "absolutely no substance whatsoever", came after the end of a lock-in period in which the stars were unable to trade their shares.

Celebrity support has been a key factor in the success of the company, which floated on the US Nasdaq Exchange earlier this year and is now capitalised at around \$2.5 billion. The rumours sent its shares down to \$18 from a high of \$32, a fall that was fuelled when a number of long-term warrant holders sold out. The share price has since recovered to \$24.

A number of sporting celebrities, including tennis stars Andre Agassi and Monica Seles, are already affiliated to the Official All-Star Cafe.

Planet Hollywood's sports-themed restaurants in New York and Mexico. In January the company is expected to announce plans to open an All-Star Cafe in London.

The publicity campaign continued apace last week when the three film stars were on hand in Las Vegas to publicise the Planet Hollywood Casino, a joint venture with ITT Corporation, the hotel chain, which is due to open in early 1999.

Facia's debtors face 10p in pound

By Jason Nisse

UNSECURED creditors of Facia, Stephen Hinchliffe's collapsed retailing group now being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office, are to be told tomorrow to expect a return of about 10p in the pound on their debts.

KMPG, the group's receiver, has raised around £20 million from selling parts of the business, which included the high street brand names Sock Shop, Red or Dead and Oakland. About £8.5 million of this will go to bankers, led by United Mizrahi. A further £5 million is due to go to preferential creditors, such as former employees and the Inland Revenue.

The remainder, which would be as high as £6.6 million, will be distributed among unsecured creditors owed a total of £50 million. The largest of these is Sears, the retail giant, which claims to be owed £30 million.

A meeting has been called in Leeds at which the group, which went into receivership in May, is expected to be placed in liquidation. The question of who will act as liquidators has yet to be resolved.

Brendan Gilfoyle, of Jeffrey Martin & Co, the Leeds firm, has been asked by Mr Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, his fellow director, to be the liquidator.

However BDO Stoy Hayward is also expected to offer itself as liquidator. It is being backed by Sears and is expected to win the vote because Sears is by far the largest creditor.

Angry creditors will have their chance to question Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison about their stewardship of the company. In addition to the SFO inquiry, it is believed that KPMG has sent a report to the Department of Trade and Industry recommending that the two directors face disqualification over their running of Facia.

The two already face similar proceedings after the demise of Boxgrey, an artificial sports pitch maker, which collapsed in 1993.

Analysts look for bounce in shares

By Fraser Nelson

ANALYSTS are looking for a partial recovery in share prices this morning, hoping that Friday's last-minute upturn on Wall Street, after the close of play in London, will prompt a bounce in the world's financial markets.

However, dealers are braced for another jittery week everywhere. In London doubts over the timing of the next rise in interest rates coincide with fears of further political shocks.

Japan's Nikkei index, which led the global share plunge on Friday, was the only major index not to show modest recovery by the

close of trading on Friday. A survey by Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, shows that the crash came just two days after Japanese fund managers became net sellers of their domestic equities for the first time in 18 months.

That report suggests that Thursday's speech by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, mirrored concerns in Tokyo's investment houses. Their concern, the survey said, was not shared by British fund managers, who were last week seeking to increase their exposure to Japanese stocks.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
10		11				
12	13		14		15	
17					18	
19				20		
21				22		

No 960

ACROSS

- Intensive-revision college (7)
- Protective shield (Zeus's, orig.) (5)
- Ponder obsessively; a matched family (5)
- Colonist (7)
- Head (slang); teachers' union (3)
- Young bird (9)
- One checking food for poison (6)
- Sausage; firework (6)
- Very sensitive to unpleasant sights (5)
- Offer; command (3)
- Roman temple; US Congress building (7)
- Valletta its capital (5)
- Marshy grass (5)
- Reduce in numbers; strength (7)

DOWN

- Cake; type of pudding (7)
- Take as one's own (5)
- Wet earth; miscreant's name (5)
- Less prudent; some bacon (6)
- Famous signature (9)
- Decorating, esp. the lily (7)
- A spray; small nail (5)
- Swan port, near Perth (9)
- Unable to answer; out (cricket) (7)
- Obstructive bureaucracy (3,4)
- Sent invoice; down to appear (6)
- Hosiery (5)
- Swelling (5)
- Plan of country (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 959

ACROSS: 1 Panic button 7 Revel 8 Towpath 10 Layabout 11 Menu 13 Porcia 15 Bustle 17 Tuna 18 Cordelia 21 Hurting 22 Tempt 23 Mystery tour

DOWN: 1 Purple patch 2 Navy 3 Cellmate 4 Untrue 5 Town 6 Nearest 9 Housemaster 12 Punditry 14 Tantrum 16 Toggie 19 Limbo 20 Digs

British Gas plays down sell-off talk

British Gas is playing down speculation that Centrica, its newly created supply business, is negotiating to sell the Morecambe Bay gasfield, one of the company's most valuable assets. However, a spokeswoman last night said that the possibility of a sell-off had been raised when the demerger of Gas into two companies, supply and the Transco pipeline network, was confirmed last week.

Moorfield pulls out

Moorfield Estates, the property company, is walking away from takeover talks with Greycourt Estates, the rival property business in conflict with a group of rebel investors, after finding itself unable to pursue "constructive discussions".

Costain silent

Costain, the construction group, has refused to comment on speculation that the sale of its US coal business is to be announced this week. The business was due to be sold to Lonrho but the deal fell through last July.

EMU could threaten jobs, says CBI chief

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

EUROPEAN economic and monetary union could lead to rising unemployment if labour markets become less flexible, the Confederation of British Industry says.

The warning by the CBI - which is still reserving its view on whether full economic and monetary union (EMU) will be valuable to Britain - touches on the fears of many opponents of EMU, who are concerned that if the UK joins, widespread job losses will result.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, says that if exchange rate flexibility is surrendered under EMU, then the maintenance of another flexibility - labour market flexibility - is vital. He says that for EMU to work, it is essential that wages in different regions are set by the productivity and competitive circumstances of companies in them, or that labour moves from regions of low to high employment.

Writing in the latest issue of *CBI News*, Mr Turner says: "If real wages are either wrong to start with, because a country enters EMU at too high a rate, or because there are subsequent wage rises unrelated to local competitiveness, then EMU can lead to rising unemployment in specific regions."

Such rising unemployment, the CBI leader suggests, could then lead to pressures for "significant fiscal transfers" to the countries concerned.

He says that if the Maastricht convergence criteria are applied absolutely and if the flexibility of European labour markets continues to increase, EMU becomes more attractive, but if the criteria are "badly fudged" or labour markets become less flexible, "there could be problems ahead."

Insisting that the pro-EMU and anti-EMU arguments remain complex and balanced, Mr Turner supports both the retention of Britain's EMU opt-out, and keeping the UK's options open.

There is still widespread fear and confusion among small businesses about effects of a single European currency, Lloyds Bank says today. John Spence, managing director of business banking at Lloyds TSB, said: "It is clear that many small firms do not fully understand the practical implications of a single currency to their business - whether the UK joins or not."

Raise a glass to faster pint

By Alasdair Murray

SOME real ale buffs, as publicans know to their cost, can take as much as two hours to down a single, savoured pint. Now the brewers are hitting back, working on a new technique to mature beer over the same timescale.

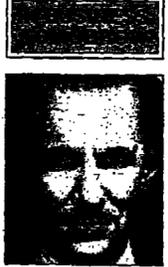
This has the potential to halve the industry's production costs. But beer campaigners say that the new technique is likely to result in a further loss in quality as brewers move away from traditional methods.

Traditional techniques to brew lager take between two and four weeks. After the larger has undergone primary fermentation, it is normally matured in a secondary stage, during which the yeast in the beer continues to act on the sugars to produce the distinctive character of the drink.

But Alfa Laval, the Belgian beer company, has unveiled a new process which cuts out the need for secondary fermentation. The company uses a specially designed glass reactor which increases the surface area of the yeast when it is in contact with the liquid, thus speeding up fermentation.

Iain Loc, research manager for the Campaign for Real Ale, said that the new process was likely to result in a drink that is pale and bland, lacking the normal depth of taste of traditionally brewed lagers.

Andy Hyde, general manager at Alfa Laval Brewery Systems in the UK, says that the beer's chemical composition and flavour are unaffected by the new technique, although he admits that the drink will not be aimed at the real ale brewing sector but at the broader European brewing market.



ANATOLE KALETSKY looks at implications for financial markets after Alan Greenspan's remarks last week

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